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2 **SOUTH BASS ISLAND
AND ISLANDERS**

By

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and

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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
1948

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The Advisory Committee for the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory established the objective of the laboratory in 1934 in the following statement:

"The laboratory should now enter new fields of activity and service pictured in the phrase 'Biology and Human Welfare'. It now stands ready to serve the University, the State, and the world in purposeful search for knowledge within the entire broad boundaries of biology as related to human betterment."

No phase of human activities needs orientation more urgently than that which brings the natural resources into use, because the continued heedless use of some of the resources could set time limits to the continued existence of people on earth. Therefore, the nature of this factor of human ecology has seemed to be a subject suitable for investigation as part of the program of the laboratory.

The Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory is located on an island in Lake Erie, on the outskirts of the village of Put-in-Bay, Ohio. This location has provided an unusual opportunity to study the relationships of people to the natural resources available in their environment. In the eleven years of continuous residence in the community, the author has been able to study the aspects of social behavior which bear close relationship to problems of resource exploitation. The background of detail for the present report constitutes a formidable mass, which should form the basis for further reports.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Foreword.	v
I The Land, Plants, and Animals.	1
II Air and Water.	7
III Growth and Integration of an Aggregation of People.	15
IV The Role of Sub-groups Within the Community.	31
V Government and Politics.	43
VI Schools and Education.	47
VII Public Health and Medical Services.	53
VIII Domestic Water Supplies and the Disposal of Wastes.	57
IX Fires and the Fire Department.	61
X Wars and Military Organizations.	63
XI The Real Estate Industry.	69
XII The Ice Industry.	73
XIII The Wine Industry.	77
XIV The Fisheries Industry.	83
XV The Building Industry.	89
XVI The Hotel Industry.	93
XVII The Retail Merchandising Industry.	97
XVIII The Transportation Industry.	101
XIX Power and Communications.	111
XX A Resumé and Some Generalizations.	115
Acknowledgements.	123
Reference—Source Records.	125
Transcription of deed to the first farm sold by DeRivera.	126
DeRivera's method of encouraging grape-culture.	127
An original record of early life on South Bass Island.	129
Brown's Independent Company of Infantry.	130

ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Plate</i>	<i>Page</i>
I—South Bass Island topography.....	2
II—South Bass Island by tracts.....	20

Figure

1—Put-in-Bay Harbor.....	23
2—The Gothic Monroe House.....	24
3—A Summer Home on the West Shore.....	25
4—The Jay Cooke Castle.....	26
5—A rice shower greets the bride and groom.....	38
6—The School House on South Bass Island.....	50
7—The township owned doctor's office.....	54
8—The Light House on South Bass Island.....	68
9—Island women tying grape vines.....	78
10—The Grape-press.....	79
11—A Put-in-Bay chartered fishing boat.....	83
12—Island fishermen set trap-nets.....	84
13—The Bayview Hotel.....	91
14—Schnoor & Fuchs general store.....	98
15—The ferry boat "Mystic Isle".....	105
16—The island car and cutter taxi.....	108
17—Electricity is transformed.....	112
18—Santa Claus visits the Town Hall.....	116
19—Island children at play.....	117

FOREWORD

A group of individuals occupying a habitat area which has sharp physical boundaries resembles other similar organic aggregations wherever found, particularly in the reactions of the individuals to each other. For example, the restraining influences of definitely limited territories establish a basis for comparison of people on an island to fish in a pond. Within these confines, the welfare of the aggregation is an expression of the relationships of its component individuals to all of the features of their environment, and the most important of these is the relationship of each two individuals to each other. The phenomenon of predatism results from the development of attitudes of dominance and subordination on the part of two individuals to each other, and these attitudes are fostered by the inevitable close contact of a limited area of occupation.

Methods have been developed for promoting the welfare of young bass in a rearing pond, as an aggregation, by avoiding the conditions which lead to predatism. Methods have been developed also for making analyses of bass populations so as to discover the nature of the social organization present at any time a sample is taken, and a system of making post-seasonal analysis was evolved as a means of checking the effectiveness of the methods used in promoting the group welfare.

This study of the human population on South Bass Island is an attempt to apply this system of analysis to people. It involves a study of the history of past relationships of the people to their complete environment, including each other, and it considers the relationships found at the present time. Since this study parallels an earlier study of bass, a resume of the fish report is presented first. The fish study was published as Bulletin No. 33 of the Ohio Biological Survey, in 1936, and was entitled "A Study of the Small-mouth Bass in Rearing Ponds in Ohio".

"The combative activities of nesting male bass compel a spacing of nests of at least ten feet under natural conditions, and this requirement would normally compel the use of large areas for spawning in fish ponds. It is possible to make better use of space and obtain better production of fry by using many breeders in small-area, mud-bottomed ponds, and having them nest side by side around the shoreline. This procedure is made possible by the fact

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that small-mouth bass spawn on gravel in preference to other substances, and gravel is placed in stalls all around the shoreline. The male bass go to the gravel to make their nests, and the stall partitions provide each bass with a sense of security against territorial invasion, so they make their nests side by side without mutual molestation.

"Rearing bass to be large-sized fingerlings in ponds before placing them in natural waters involves either speeding up their rate of growth or holding them long in the ponds. It is more desirable to harvest a crop of bass from each pond each autumn instead of from every second pond, and bass culturists have been attempting to rear young bass to the greatest possible size in a single season.

"In the Ohio State Fish Farms the land values are high and it is imperative that the ponds be operated in such manner that they yield good crops. The application of intensive methods of bass production involves the use of an external supply of food, and the following paragraphs deal with the methods for successfully feeding bass on ground carp.

"The most desirable crop consists of the maximum number of individuals with the maximum mass weight. The maximum individual development is attained under certain conditions by cannibalistic individuals, but this growth is attained at the expense of other individuals, and therefore, of the welfare of the group. The minimum individual growth also is made by individuals from aggregations containing cannibals, and this is due to the fact that fear of predators prevents free eating. The maximum mean growth is attained by individuals in aggregations which lack cannibals, and such aggregations also possess the maximum mass weight. Cannibalism is, therefore, a phenomenon of individual behavior which benefits the cannibalistic individual at the expense of the welfare of the group or aggregation, and must be prevented if the aggregational welfare is to be fostered.

"The aggregations of bass in rearing ponds are man-made and artificial. The bass fry are placed in a rearing pond soon after becoming able to move from the nest in search of food, and although fry from several nests are usually placed together, care is exercised to place only fry of equal size together. The thousands of fry school together as they move around the pond eating entomostracans, but the aggregation is looser than that of a natural school because of its greater numbers and because it lacks the guarding care of the male parent.

"The young bass are kept in the strict confines of the rearing pond while growing and becoming capable of traversing greater

distances at increasing rates of speed. They are, therefore, subjected to enforced proximity of each other which becomes more pronounced with the progress of the season, although this is mitigated somewhat by progressive reduction in numbers. With growth and increased activity the large aggregation commonly loses its integrity and breaks into several groups of smaller numbers of individuals. This disintegration probably occurs during the darkness of night, but usually is noticed first in daytime. These lesser groups may retain their individuality and occupy particular parts of the rearing pond, or they may split further and lose all group character. This is the condition commonly prevailing by the time the bass are large enough to start accepting the ground-up fish flesh which is offered as food, from two to four weeks after they have been placed in the pond. The use of the proper technique of feeding at this time is the only effective way of bringing about a complete reaggregation.

"Even though all fry are at the same stage of development when placed together in a pond, and all eat freely of the same food supply, they exhibit normal variation in their rates of growth. The fastest growing individuals quickly become so much larger than some of their fellows that they are able to swallow them. Eating habits are strong, and individuals which have eaten smaller individuals have started a habit which they can rarely be induced to break. The predaceous individuals cease schooling with the aggregation and claim individual niches around the pond margin. The majority of the fish continue to school together, and as they range around the open waters of the pond they pass the niches of the predators. The predators dash out to capture the smaller bass as the school passes by, then retreat to their respective holdings. The small fish are scattered by such attacks but quickly reassemble, and continue around the pond. Such a group commonly takes food readily except when chased from it by a predator, but the latter cannot be induced to take other food. With the passage of time the predators decimate the numbers of the prey group, and when the predators can no longer satisfy their hunger by lurking and preying upon passing fish they leave their niches and go in active search of food. The predators then form a new ranging group, while the few remaining small fish are driven to the vegetational shoal for protection. When the small fish have been completely eliminated from a pond the aggregation of predators turns readily to acceptance of the food offered.

"This complete series of events does not always transpire before the end of the season, but the stage attained is expressed by the

survival percentage when the pond is drained. The earlier in the season ponds with aggregations of this sort are drained, the more fish of the prey group are salvaged, and the survival percentage is the minimum when the cycle has been completed. However, the earlier in the season the fish are removed the smaller is their average size, and the problem to be resolved is how to feed the fish for the longest possible period to permit them to attain the maximum size and still avoid losses by cannibalism.

"This has been accomplished in the ponds where feeding has been successful, and the correlation between successful feeding and a good crop is apparent. The seasonal history of the bass in ponds which have yielded good crops bears the following significant features:

"The bass fry have attained quick early growth while feeding on entomostracans, and when from two to three weeks old every bass in the aggregation has developed the habit of complete dependence on the external food supply. For the entire remainder of the season every bass in the pond has eaten only the food provided, and has ranged freely in the presence of every other bass throughout the entire pond.

"Bass can be prevented from developing the habit of cannibalism by the successful provision of food, and this can be done by recognition of the factors influencing bass eating. The food supply must be adequate so that every bass in a pond can eat whenever hungry, and the constant observation of the feeder enables him to supply food in such quantities and at such intervals as to meet the need.

"Bass are dependent upon their sight sense to find food and the food must be placed within range of their vision. The bass learn to associate the coming of food with the sight of a moving man on the pond levee, and the feeder should be clearly visible to every bass in a pond.

"Active motility is an essential characteristic of a satisfactory bass food, as this focuses the attention of the bass upon the food particle. When ground carp is first offered to the bass it is given motion by casting the food directly in front of a school of bass. The bass first take the food as it sifts apart while slowly dropping through the water to the bottom, then sees the food coming through the air and hits it when it lights. Finally the bass associate the coming of the food with the arrival of the feeder, and thereafter they follow to feed until they can eat no more. By encircling the pond two or three times the feeder can be sure that every fish has eaten to the limit of its capacity.

"When draining a rearing pond, all fingerlings are drained to a catchbasin, and when all together in the catchbasin a random sample of 150 fish is counted out. The total length of each of these 150 live fish is measured to the lower one-fourth inch, and for greater accuracy the figures are reduced to the lower one-half inch intervals. The variations of length have been found to be correlated with the type of social organization which prevailed at the time the pond was drained. These fall readily into the following series of types:

"TYPE I. The many bass present are all members of an integrated aggregation, ranging freely together throughout the entire pond and eating freely together of the food provided, exclusively. The length frequencies form a curve of normal variation with the mode at a rather high point. See Plate I.

"TYPE II. The many bass present are all members of an integrated aggregation, ranging freely together throughout the entire pond and eating freely together of the food provided, exclusively. The variations are expressed by a bimodal curve with the principal mode approximately as in Type I. See Plate II.

"TYPE III. Most of the numerous fish present are members of an integrated aggregation ranging only over the deeper central part of the pond, eating of the food provided when not kept from doing so by the predaceous individuals which constitute the remainder of those present in the pond. The predators are larger than the members of the group and do not school with them or with each other, but occupy individual holdings in sheltered spots around the pond, mostly along the margins, and emerge only to prey upon the smaller fish when they pass near by. The length frequencies show a normal curve with a low mode for the small fish, and a series of ungrouped larger fish with a wide range of length variation. See Plate III.

"TYPE IV. The small number of fish present constitutes the two distinct social groups of predators and prey. The predators range together throughout the pond, refusing the food offered, and eating smaller individuals whenever they effect captures. The smaller individuals are scattered through the vegetation in extremely shallow water along the pond margins. The length frequencies show distinct bimodalism with the high mode for the predators and the low for the prey. See Plate IV.

"TYPE V. The very few fish present range and eat freely together of the external food supply. The length frequencies show a normal curve with a very high mode. See Plate V.

"TYPE VI. The very few fish present range freely together over the entire pond but do not depend at all upon the external food provided. The length variations are expressed by a normal curve with a low mode. See Plate VI.

"TYPE VII. The very few fish present range freely together over the entire pond, and eat freely together of the external food provided. The length variations are expressed by a normal curve with a moderately high mode, as in Type I.

"TYPE VIII. The very few fish present range freely together over the entire pond, and eat freely together of the external food provided. The length variations are expressed by a bimodal curve similar to that of Type II.

"The post-seasonal diagnosis of results for the purpose of determining faults of conditions or technique is a practical approach

to the problem of production. Analysis of the data of actual production in numbers and pounds, of survival percentages, and of length-frequencies reveals what has happened during the season in the pond. As a rule the following will apply:

"1. If the survival percentage is high (50% or more) and the length-variations form a single rather high mode, the early losses were not too great and cannibalism was prevented by successful feeding.

"2. If the survival percentage is moderate (10% to 20%) and the length variations are bimodal with the principal mode rather high, the early losses were moderate and cannibalism was prevented by successful feeding, but one group was more laggard about starting to eat the food provided than the other.

"3. If the survival percentage is moderate (10% to 20%) and the length variations reveal a well-defined small group of bass and a series of ungrouped larger individuals, the early losses were moderate and cannibalism was a prevailing condition. The group of small fish was in process of decimation by the predators who were still occupying individual niches around the pond.

"4. If the survival percentage is less than above (4% to 10%) and the length variations reveal two well-defined groups, one very small, the other considerably larger, the early losses were heavy and feeding has not been successful. Cannibalism has proceeded until the group of small fish has been so reduced that the predators have emerged from their niches and formed a new ranging group.

"5. If the survival percentage is low (under 10%) and the length variations form a normal curve with a very high mode, the early losses were great and cannibalism had proceeded to the complete elimination of the small fish, with the survivors (predators only) then turning readily to dependence on an external food supply.

"6. If the survival percentage is low (under 5%) and the length variations form a normal curve with a very low mode, the early losses were great and neither cannibalism nor the habit of dependence on the external food supply had been developed, and usually the water temperature is too low for successful bass culture.

"7. If the survival percentage is low (under 5%) and the length variations form a normal curve with a mode as in Type I, the early loss was great, but cannibalism was prevented by successful feeding.

"8. If the survival percentage is low (under 5%) and the length variations show grouping as in Type II, the early mortality was great and cannibalism was prevented by successful feeding, but one group was more laggard about starting to eat the food provided than the other.

After analysis of results obtained and diagnosis of the nature of the causes of unsatisfactory results it is possible to modify conditions or methods to avoid repetition of errors in succeeding seasons."

CHAPTER I

THE LAND, PLANTS AND ANIMALS

South Bass Island is part of the slope to the east of a ridge island which emerged during an early epoch of geological history in the middle of the vast seas of middle America, and which extended from somewhere down in Tennessee northward to the middle of Lake Erie. The ridge and most of its side slopes have disappeared, but the 26 islands in the western end of Lake Erie are fragments of the original big island, some of them sloping one way, and some the other, depending on which side of the crest of the ridge they were on. They might have been more continuous except for a river which started in the western part of the present lake site and flowed eastwards, carrying with it the materials eroded from the ridge, and the present channels between the islands are souvenirs of the original stream.

The long axis of South Bass Island aligns with the long axis of the lake, from southwest to northeast, and its area of 1382 acres lies in two main masses which were almost separate islands until 1913 when the marshy area between them was filled to make a site for a historical marker. The lesser of these two areas is the relatively flat East Point, and the larger, with one ridge rising to a height of 45 feet, is sometimes, though seldom, called West Point. The bedrock of dolomite inclines from the northwest toward the southeast, thus crossing the width of the island. The rock is bare along the ridges near the northwestern shoreline, and in the nude areas it has become seamed and perforated by exposure to moist air and freezing. There are caves beneath some of these ridges, with entry ways along the inclined spaces left by arch faulting.

Adjacent to these ridges, the shoreline is steeply exposed to the full vigor of the prevailing westerly storms, whose erosive forces have produced a picturesque and a precipitous cliff. The shales beneath the dolomite are accessible at the high spots to the merciless waves and ice, and cavernous spaces have been opened up. At some of these places the overhanging dolomite has toppled off into the lake to rest beside the cliff, fending off the waves from the vulnerable shales. Between these rocky projections there are small, crescent-shaped beaches, each of which has its distinctive size and shape of pebble. One such area is known to the island children as "marble beach" because so many of its stones are

perfectly spherical. Part of the beach in the notch known as "Stone's Cove" consists of flat stones from the shale beds nearby, and this inexhaustible supply of "skippers" also is well known to the island children.

The shoreline on the opposite side of the island is the opposite kind of shoreline, with the bedrock grading gently out into the water, almost like a city sidewalk in some places. The topsoil is being washed out by wave action along part of the East Point, and behind Chapman's Point a broad ridge of shale stones has been piled or pushed up by waves and ice. The only real sandy beach is at the narrow neck between the two land masses, where the shoreline and current characteristics combine to permit small particles of sand to drop out of suspension in the water. (Plate I.)



PLATE I

The islanders have made various uses of the available geological resources. The community center has developed on the northern side of the west point because the semi-enclosed bay there offers excellent harborage to boats in need of a place to "put-in". (Fig. 1.) Such a refuge was exceedingly important to the men who ran the early small boats, and this harbor was so frequently used as a place to ride out the storms that it came to be known as "Put-in-Bay", a name now applied to the village on the bay and to the township. The beach gravels have been used extensively for making roadbeds and for filling the ruts of dirt lanes. Shore deposits of sand and gravel have been used in concrete structures, and the gravel was bound with lime mortar to form grout. Two early kilns were built to make lime, but the operators found the dolomite too hard to burn well, and while enough lime was made to go into the construction of several grout houses, barns, smoke houses, and wineries, the old lime kiln at the south end has not been operated since anyone knows when.

Granite boulders were dropped by a glacier as it passed over this region, and many of these dornicks have been used in the

construction of sea-walls, one stone fence, and a few buildings. Others were used in the early days to fill dock cribs, but the waves rolled these round stones until they loosened the lower timbers of the cribs, so flat stones are now preferred. The south shore of Middle Island, which, lying three miles to the east of South Bass Island, is the southernmost tip of all Canada, consists of strata of flat stones, and many of these have been hauled over the ice for use as filler in cribs and as net weights. For the latter use holes were drilled through the flat stones during the winter months so they might be attached to the nets in the spring.

Weathered limestone is interesting, and perhaps pretty, and several island front lawns have been decorated with arches or other groups of these rocks. The large fountain in the village park has a centerpiece and surrounding wall made of this material.

Large crystals of strontium sulphate occur in masses in some known local areas. Strontian Island was the name applied at one time to the present Green Island, and an open pit there reveals the source of supply of some crystals which were used in clarifying sugar and for fireworks. On South Bass Island crystals are exposed in many places, but the greatest known mass of them occurs underground. This mass lines the inner surface of a geode, and, since it has steps leading down into it, and is illuminated, it can be seen from the inside. Known as "Crystal Cave", it has been shown to many visitors each summer since about 1895. Perry's Cave is one of the largest of the numerous openings in the dolomite, and it has been a show place since 1869.

About one-fourth of the area of South Bass Island is covered with a shallow layer of Randolph stony loam, and the other three-fourths has a deeper cover of grayish Catawba loam. Much of the stony loam area remains covered with weeds or thickets, but the Catawba loam has been exploited ruthlessly for the production of grapes. The local cultural methods have not safeguarded the welfare of the soil, and the ability of the soil to supply nutrient materials and moisture to the plants has shown a marked decline. The practice of planting grapevines in rows which lead downgrade toward the shoreline, and of keeping the soil bare, speeds the rainfall away, and with it go large amounts of soil. The establishment of a more mutually satisfactory relationship between the people and the soil is essential to the continued welfare of people on the island.

Before South Bass Island was settled by white people, the Randolph soils supported hackberry, hop-hornbeam, elm, and maple trees, with red cedar trees on the rocky ridges and shorelines; while

the Catawba soils produced oak, hickory, maple, elm, basswood, and walnut trees. In 1811, a tract of 100 acres was cleared of trees and planted to wheat, and from 1811 at least through 1818 there were foraging pigs and grazing sheep on the island. From 1837 until 1854 there were extensive lumbering operations carried on, with the larger trees being shipped off of the island for use in building and with the smaller trees cut for fuel for steamboat boilers. Many tracts were cleared by settlers between 1854 and 1870, and all of the island homes and public buildings were dependent upon local cordwood fuel until about 1895. When the cleared lands were not put promptly into crops they were invaded by the cedars and sumacs, and grazing stock kept the deciduous trees from re-establishing themselves.

The South Bass islanders have reacted to the vegetation in various ways. They have tried to find and use the best ways for promoting the welfare of grapevines, fruit and nut trees, garden vegetables, and some medicinal herbs. They have taken sap from maple trees to make syrup and sugar, and they have cropped their young cedars for use as fence posts in the vineyards. They have used the hickory, elm, ash, and sycamore trees for lumber, firewood, and shade. They have been benevolent about the beautiful harebell, columbine, and bittersweet, but bitter about the highly competitive ability of the hackberry and sumac. Every homestead has some trees, shrubs, or garden flowers which have been planted and cared for by the residents.

Unfortunately there are no records to indicate what the island fauna may have been when the first settlers arrived, but it is probable that of the larger animals there was a small number of species and individuals present. There may have been grouse and porcupines and a few deer, bears, and foxes, and there may have been some squirrels and rabbits and quail. There have been no deer or bear or grouse recorded, and these species were probably eliminated by early hunters before the place was settled. In relatively recent years, the quail were completely killed off, and the raccoons which came over the ice or were brought to the island later were also killed off.

Cottontail rabbits have undergone cycles of varying abundance on South Bass Island as elsewhere, and the large numbers of them present in 1944 did great damage to desirable plants during the severe winter of 1944-5. The rabbits removed all bark within their reach from many sumacs, forsythia, japonica, peach trees, and grapevines, and they have even eaten all of the lower needles from some ornamental evergreens. Their predations have been checked

somewhat by shotgun methods, and many of them died of starvation or disease late in January and early February, but there is little likelihood of reduction of broodstock below the level needed to adequately restock the island. Those islanders who derive revenue from the pay-hunters want to maintain large numbers of rabbits, but those other islanders, whose fruit trees and grapevines have been harmed, would be glad to see them extirpated, and many rabbits and pheasants are shot during the six weeks before the hunting season legally begins on November 16th each year.

Ringneck pheasants were brought to South Bass Island about 1920, and a large number of them has been harvested by hunters annually. Some of the islanders would like to have all pheasants removed because they cause some loss of grapes, and because the pheasants eat some freshly sown rye from the vineyards.

Squirrels are liked so much by most islanders that they are not hunted, but a few men kill them because the squirrels help themselves to the crops of English walnuts. Rats are seasonally very abundant and are destructive, but no organized effort has been made to control their numbers. Bats are abundant during the summer, and they find shelter in caves, barns, and boat houses but are not persecuted as a rule. There are small numbers of house mice and deer mice on the island but no voles. Muskrats are trapped by the island boys from the limited marshy areas of Square Harbor and Terwillegar's pond.

Certain kinds of locally-abundant, fish-eating birds have been persecuted because of a fancied competition for fishes. The islanders have destroyed the eggs of the common tern in the colony nesting area on Starve Island, thinking that the terns were responsible for the decline of the herring fishery, but studies of tern stomachs have shown that the abundant lake shiner is the main item in their diet. Hawks and owls have been shot indiscriminately, in the misbelief that such action was necessary to protect the rabbits and pheasants.

The island serves as a sort of stepping stone for many kinds of birds in their migration hops over Lake Erie each spring and fall, but most islanders do not know many kinds of birds and are not interested in these periods of abundance. The gaudy cardinal is conspicuous among the cedars in the winter time, and several householders put grain on feeding tables for their use, but the Carolina wren, which sings prettily through most of the winter season, is not generally known. The swarming, circling, and roosting of the many thousands of purple martins in thickets near town each autumn is a sight which thrills ornithologists, but the few

islanders who are aware of the phenomenon regard it as a nuisance. In 1945 there were seven martin houses on South Bass Island.

Snakes are generally disliked by islanders, particularly the abundant water snake with its vicious habit of biting people who molest it, but even the harmless and pretty DeKay's snake, and the occasional ringneck snake, and the gartersnake and racers are killed ruthlessly. The few timber rattlesnakes, limited in their range to the highlands of the Victory woods, manage to persist in small numbers in spite of slaughter on sight. The occasional large snapping turtle is used for food, but most islanders enjoy seeing the abundant map turtles and painted terrapins lined up on the logs and sunken scows in Square Harbor. No amphibians are locally abundant except mudpuppies, and they are seen only when these are caught by ice-fishermen. Although palatable, they are not used for food because of prejudice against their appearance.

Early each summer there is an extensive emergence from aquatic larvae of two groups of insects, the mayflies and midges, and these insects are a nuisance during their brief period of flight and mating. The mayflies, known locally as "Canadian soldiers", leave their first-cast skins on the surface of the lake, and these are wave-washed onto the beach where they form stinking brownish masses. They leave their second-cast skins hanging on trees and house screens, and many of them fall to the ground to form masses which are later alive with fly maggots.

This abundance of insects leads to a later abundance of spiders which feed upon them, and people do not react too kindly to spiders. Termites have caused considerable damage to some buildings on the island, but there have been no extensive efforts to control them. Leaf hoppers reduce the foliage of the grapevines, thereby reducing the sugar content of the grapes, and the islanders try to control them by spraying the vines. A few species of ants are present in great numbers, and some of them are household pests which are subject to efforts at control. The small, black stable flies of late summer bite hard and bother people outdoors, principally anglers, but seldom invade houses.

The early settlers brought domestic animals to the island for assistance in converting the soil and plant substances into materials which could be used for food or clothing, and other animals were brought for companionship. The island has supported at some time sheep, swine, cattle, horses, goats, turkeys, geese, chickens, cats, dogs, parrots, canaries, and a monkey. There were forty cows on the island in 1943. Small amounts of honey have been produced by bees, and the island would surely support many more bees than are now present.

CHAPTER II

AIR AND WATER

The South Bass islanders are everlastingly conscious of their climate because of the obvious correlation of its vagaries with their welfare. The summer excursionist trade is good or bad, according to the weather. The grape crop is determined by sunshine, rainfall, and lack of frost and hail, and it is occasionally ruined by the mildew that comes with too much rain at critical times. The success of fishing efforts throughout the year varies directly with wind, waves, and sunshine. Strong winds prevent boats from providing transportation over the lake, and the air-ferry cannot fly in dense fog or freezing rain. Heavy snowfall may block the island roads to all but foot traffic. The visibility of the several navigation lights is a matter of common interest and concern, while a "low sky" is made known to everyone by the shadows of the Monument, cast by the flood lights on the clouds.

The climate of South Bass Island is characterized by its light precipitation and its long frost-free season. The island receives the least precipitation of any part of Ohio, averaging only 28 inches during the past five years, a surprising fact because of its proximity to a lot of water. The long frost-free season of 200 days per year is attributable to the action of the mass of water in releasing heat at critical times to the cooler air above it. The principal winds are from the opposite directions of southwest and northeast, with velocities and directions varying according to the seasons. The violent southwesters hit the island in an invariable autumnal series, while the three day "blows" from the northeast come during the winter months. There are very few windless nights, but when they do occur, the air mass over the island stratifies according to temperature, with the most heat on the heights and the least heat in the depressions.

Strong winds, fog, freezing rain, and hail are the factors of the climate which are responsible for danger, destruction, and disaster, and it has been the reduced visibility associated with these factors which has led directly to many accidents. On December 27, 1937, a dense cloud of ice crystals blew in suddenly from the east just in time to obscure the airfield from the pilot who was trying

to land his plane on South Bass Island. The plane crashed through the thin ice near Starve Island, and three passengers lost their lives, though the pilot was saved. On December 7, 1944, the ferry-boat "Mascot", ran up onto the reef to the east of Middle Bass Island in a dense fog at night. She was saved only because her master was able to summon help with a ship-to-shore radio, and because there happened to be a powerful pump nearby at the State Fish Hatchery. Visibility doubtless played its part when the side-wheel steamer, "State of Ohio" ran aground on the rattle of Rattlesnake Island in 1906, and again when the "State of New York" ran onto Sweeney's Rocks on the west shore of South Bass Island in 1907. Both boats suffered some damages but were salvaged.

Large hailstones destroyed the local grape crop in August, 1915, and hail did nearly as much damage as the wind to grapes and windows during the cyclone of August 2, 1934. During that violent storm, the top part of Fox's dock building was wrecked. Its concrete blocks were picked up and dropped into an automobile nearby from which Charles Mahler had just emerged, and Mahler was unharmed though his car was wrecked. Mr. and Mrs. Otis Ziegler were heading their small power boat for Fox's dock when the storm hit, but they lay-to off Gibraltar Island in safety and they saw the dock buildings disintegrate. Captain Stoll was driving the ferry "Erie Isle" toward Catawba when the boat was caught in the cyclone, but he kept the boat on her course and she rolled out of invisibility straight toward her dock.

The transition from an open to a closed lake which takes place when winter comes to the island region usually is not a simple case of "no ice" then "ice". The way the ice comes, the things which happen to it while it is present, and the way it leaves form a series of events which varies surprisingly from year to year, and some understanding of the ice is necessary to an understanding of the relationships of the islanders to the ice.

The first ice usually appears in November, when waves are thrown at the island by a series of violent storms, crashing against the rocky western shore with such force that spray and mist are blown high through the nine-bark shrubs and the cedar and hackberry trees. By the time the wind and the waves have subsided, the shrubs and trees droop with the weight of a heavy coating of ice, and the rocky ledges are skirted with draperies of icicles. These fall storms chill the water of the lake toward the freezing point, and the bays acquire a surface glaze on a clear, cold, and quiet night early in December. On this night, the entire mass of water close to shore is so near the freezing point early in the evening

that slender, needle-like crystals form on the bottom stones, (sometimes the intake pipe line at the fish hatchery become plugged shut with this "needle" ice) and the actual formation of a sheet of ice over the surface takes place at about midnight or somewhat later.

Usually this first ice on the lake gets broken up by wave action into a batch of pieces which bang against each other and knock off their corners until they look like a mass of pancakes, though they look more like platters later on, after the water has slopped over their edges and frozen to form an elevated rim. This pancake ice may mass up in some bay eventually to form good solid ice, but most of it seems to go down lake with a late storm.

The onset of prolonged cold weather comes to the lake region usually between the middle and end of December, and when the ice comes to stay, the islanders become anxious to go ice fishing. The ice fishermen's total catch averaged 44,500 pounds each winter from 1935 through 1940, and since the cash returns from ice fishing are spread through most local families, their desires for good ice can be understood. Added to the drudgery there is an element of sport which men, women, and children count upon quite as much as the cash returns.

A week of continuously clear and cold weather may "make" as much as four inches of ice, but the thickness and hardness of the ice are contingent upon the lack of snow. Ice grows in thickness by additions from below, by the freezing of water in contact underneath, and to do this, ice must transmit heat from the water into the air above it. A blanket of snow crystals, with its interstices filled with air, stops the transmission of heat out of the water so effectively that the layer of ice may remain thin and soft through very cold weather.

An ice-covered lake lacks the great capacity which an open lake possesses for preventing extremes of temperature on the island. Any wind at all puts the air mass over the island in complete circulation, and when snow falls on the frozen lake, the wind uses it to bombard the island. Wherever some barrier slows down these winds, they drop their loads, making a series of sizeable drifts on and around the island, and drifts formed on the ice make and mark danger zones.

When strong winds blow lengthwise of the lake, pushing the water toward one end and withdrawing it from the other, at Put-in-Bay the level varies as much as four feet. The ice sheet bulges upward over the boulders on the shoals when the level drops, and these humps of solid ice rise conspicuously above the surrounding

level ice sheet after the level rises again. In the same manner, ice attaches to gravel and around logs or other objects near shore (including the cribbing of docks) and these objects are lifted when the lake returns to higher levels. These changes of level at intervals also bring fresh water up above the ice at the shoreline, causing crusts which crumple under foot when one crosses to or from shore. Frost frequently forms on ice or on snow over ice, but the largest frost crystals, resembling little flowers, are to be found over the edge-ice where the air is more humid.

A period of mild weather comes in the middle of most winters, and during these warm spells the snow over the ice melts into puddles. From these puddles vapor rises to form low clouds, and these clouds form a dense mantle which on occasion has necessitated alteration of the scheduled two-a-day flights of the air ferry to mainland. If the sun stays out long enough the ice becomes porous and the puddles disappear by draining down through. When the snow on the ice has all melted away, the return of cold weather makes hard thick ice, but an incomplete thaw only fuses the snow crystals at the surface and may result in crusted-over areas which are treacherously unsafe.

The ice sheet is affected also by the changes in temperature which occur during each twenty-four hour period, because the days are usually warmer than the nights. The cold of darkness contracts the ice sheet, opening up rifts within which the water is exposed, and these surfaces may glaze over during the night with thin, smooth ice resembling the glass in window panes. When the warmth of daylight expands the ice sheet, the rifts are narrowed, and the window-pane ice is pushed up on top of solid ice at the edges. Greater expansion sometimes butts the two edges together so they rise vertically, but it also sometimes pushes one edge of thick ice up over the top of the other to double its thickness. Winds and currents also cause these same things to happen.

Some of these phenomena may be seen at the shorelines as well as out in the open areas of the lake. When the pressure of the ice is applied directly onshore, an ice ridge is piled up along the shoreline, and this is usually accompanied by an overthrust or fault a short distance offshore. When the pressure toward shore is applied at an obtuse angle, there is usually a lengthy line of overlap, which may produce a high jam pile of thick ice at the shoreward end in a short period of time, perhaps not more than half of an hour. Year after year these rifts or folds occur in approximately the same places as expression of the same forces, and the islanders know the usual locations of these danger zones.

The shortest route from South Bass Island to the mainland is across the south channel to Catawba Point, and occasionally this path can be taken on foot with safety, but currents "set in" suddenly, and currents of warmer water from the depths can erode the ice from underneath to make it most unsafe regardless of its unchanged appearance. When the ice bridge to mainland tempts some of the hardier old-timers to drive their cars across, they make a wide sweep from the town, northward past Gibraltar Island, then westward to pass between Rattlesnake and Green Islands, and they reach the mainland at the beach just west of Port Clinton. This pathway crosses a weak place off Gibraltar Island and another one where a rift or fold extends from near the southern tip of South Bass Island toward Green Island and on toward the rattles west of Rattlesnake Island. Sometimes, as in early January, 1946, there is an ice ridge parallel to the beach near Port Clinton, and this makes difficulty for getting ashore.

The islanders cross over the ice to mainland for supplies in spite of the risks involved, following this route because it offers the least hazard, and observing certain elementary precautions. They drive mostly jalopies from which the tops have been removed, and they sometimes drive from the running board so they can step off of the car if it starts to go down. They carry axes and planks for use in crossing the folds and rifts, and they drive slowly enough to spot weaknesses in the ice. Most of the serious accidents have happened to off-islanders while they were not following the safe procedures which the islanders have developed. No stranger has "known better", though some have thought they have.

Many of the dramatic episodes which the islanders have related have been experiences with the frozen lake. All local ice fishermen know that they will probably fall into the lake sometime or other, and they have planned the way they will get out of water onto solid ice. Most of the old timers have fallen through, so some of them have experience to back up their plans. In general, they say that one can climb out better by backing up to the edge of the ice, because he can raise his feet high by kicking and then can lean over backwards on top of the ice, while if he faces the edge his feet are likely to come up under the ice and seriously hinder his efforts. One of them had his wife sew spikes in his mittens across the palms, with the points projecting beyond the palms, so he could jab the spikes into the ice and have something to pull with. The terrific chill that comes with the first immersion in the icy water is a shock that sometimes stops the heart.

A few tragedies have occurred, and islanders have carefully

considered every detail of the incidents and of the circumstances which led to them in order to avoid the errors of judgment or procedure or circumstances involved. For instance:

1. The ferryboat "Mascot" was frozen in at the Doller dock on December 30, 1939, when floe ice massed back into the bay. On the following morning she broke her way out of the bay in order to get back to Sandusky for the winter, and the channel she opened up glazed over with thin ice that night. Elsewhere the ice seemed dependable, and Bill Lindner decided to cross from Middle Bass Island to Put-in-Bay on foot. Several men on Fox's dock watched his progress, and they saw him drop suddenly through the thin ice over the Mascot's channel. The watchers rushed out with ropes to get Bill out, and he was not far from shore, but he went down before help reached him. The conclusion was reached that the chill had stopped his heart.

2. One winter when the ice on the southeast side was unusually good, a few of the island boys skated to Sandusky and back. The younger Senne boy lingered behind and got lost, and the story became known when his body was washed ashore in the spring. One leg was broken so badly that the foot dangled loosely, and part of a broken skate was in his overalls pocket. The knees of his pants were worn through and showed how he had crawled on the ice after breaking his leg.

3. Before the advent of the air ferry, the mail and essential supplies were transported to the island across the south channel by use of a rowboat on which sled runners had been built (locally called an ironclad). Jack Morrison, assisted by one of his wife's nephews, Carl Rotert, hauled the mail in this way for several years. On January 29, 1903, after having brought the mail over, Jack and Carl returned to Catawba Point to get a twenty foot length of six inch pipe which some one wanted hauled over. They placed the pipe crossways of the ironclad and started off, but shortly after they had passed Mouse Island they struck poor ice. Jack was pushing one end of the pipe and Carl was pushing the other end when the ice gave way beneath Carl. The pipe tipped up and tangled in Jack's suspenders, and then the pipe slid toward Carl. Before Jack could get loosened and around to the other end, Carl had gone down, yelling for help, with the pipe sliding in after him and perhaps on top of him. He did not come up.

4. On December 28, 1903, Bill Kindt, aged twenty-one, was pulling his ice fishing shanty when he and his shanty dropped through thin ice. Instead of trying to climb out on the ice, he tried

to climb on top of his floating shanty, but the shanty rolled over on top of him and he was unable to get out.

5. Two of the three island physicians who have been drowned lost their lives when the closed car in which they were driving dropped down through the ice. The weight of the water prevents opening the door of a closed car at a depth of thirty feet, so the comfort of a closed car is foregone in favor of the safety of an open jalopy.

CHAPTER III

GROWTH AND INTEGRATION OF AN AGGREGATION OF PEOPLE

The Indians originally owned the Ohio country, including South Bass Island, but several of the colonies on the eastern seaboard claimed they did, individually of course, and Great Britain was not at all sure that she had yielded her claim to the region after the Colonies severed their ties from her. The claim of Connecticut found some acceptance, so the States of New York and Virginia (after they became States) yielded to Connecticut. The U. S. Government had to persuade the Indians to drop their claims, in 1805, two years after the State of Ohio had been admitted to the Union.

In order to relinquish her jurisdiction over the Western Reserve tract in the area which became part of the State of Ohio, but without financial sacrifice, the State of Connecticut sold the entire tract to fifty-nine Nutmeg business men. Each had agreed that he would invest a certain amount toward the sum of \$1,200,000 and they bid this amount for the entire block of 3,840,000 acres. When the State of Connecticut accepted their offer, the men incorporated as "The Connecticut Land Co." to complete the transaction, and the State thereupon issued a deed to each of the men for as many twelve-hundred thousandths of the tract as he had put dollars into the purchase price. They met the problem of getting the proper share for each stockholder by dividing the tract into townships and drawing townships at a series of drafts at Hartford, Connecticut.

One of the stockholders was Pierpont Edwards, a veteran of the Revolution, and a District Court Judge. He had invested sixty thousand dollars, so he got one-twentieth of the tract, and he had to participate in many of the drafts in order to get his share. On one of the first drafts he drew a township near the Pennsylvania line, and he named this one Mesopotamia Township of Trumbull County (all of the Western Reserve was then in Trumbull County of the Northwest Territory, before there was a State of Ohio). Pierpont never left his Connecticut fireside, but he sent his oldest child, John Stark Edwards, out on horseback to Ohio.

John had graduated from Princeton's Law College in 1796,

studied some more law in his father's office and had been admitted to the Bar in 1799, just before he became an Ohio settler. He promoted the occupation of Mesopotamia township by offering a free fifty acres to the first single man and a free hundred acres to the first family who would move in with the honorable intention of staying for life. He was elected to fill the important post of Recorder of Trumbull County in 1801, but he must have commuted to Warren to take care of the attendant duties, because he continued to live and work out in his township, erecting a grist mill on Mill Creek in 1803. In 1804 he married Louisa, the daughter of General Lewis R. Morris, and then moved into Warren. The Drafts had slowed down at Hartford after the eastern part of the Western Reserve had been drawn, because, even though the State of Ohio had been admitted to the Union in 1803, the Indians had not conceded yet that anyone but they owned the lands west of the Cuyahoga River. After the Treaty of Fort Industry had cleared the title to those lands, in 1805, some more drafts were held, and one of the townships which Pierpont Edwards drew, on April 4, 1807, was on the shore of Lake Erie. The main part of this township, which later became Avon Township, in Lorain County, was easy to get to for supervision, but this tract was not an even rectangle, because the wavy shoreline formed its northern edge. The three islands in Lake Erie which were made part of it to supplement its smaller area, were not so easy of access.

In 1810, Pierpont Edwards deeded the three islands to the common ownership of his two sons, John and Ogden, and in 1811 John sent Seth Doan to the islands to get some work started. Seth had been brought in 1798 from Chatham, Connecticut, when he was a boy of thirteen, and he knew what hardships were. The trip had taken 92 days, and en route the whole family had taken sick with fever and ague, but they all pulled through. His father was a blacksmith, and Seth had grown up doing things with his hands, so he was a good man to do this job on the islands. In 1811 he moved in, dispossessed a group of French Canadian squatters, got a tract of 100 acres on South Bass Island cleared of woods and planted to fall wheat, and got a stock of 400 sheep and 150 hogs onto the island to graze and to forage on the acorns and hickory nuts for slaughter the following year.

By harvest time in 1812, there was considerable tension along the boundary line with Canada because the British policy of impressing American seamen into their service had led to open warfare. John Stark Edwards had a crew on hand to harvest his wheat crop as soon as it was ripe, and he had the entire crop of 2000

bushels stored in a new log shed on the Catawba Peninsula of mainland. However, this proved to be wasted effort, because some British invaders followed the wheat to mainland and scattered it to the southwest winds. In the meantime, Edwards had organized a company of militia in Warren and marched them as far as Cleveland, and he doubtless would have kept them going until they reached the Bass Islands, but in Cleveland the authorities made him a Colonel and ordered him to dismiss his company.

As the winter of 1813 wore on, Colonel Edwards became impatient to see the extent of damage which his properties on the island had suffered, so with two friends, George Parsons and William Bell, in January, he started on horseback for the islands. While they were on the way there was a warm rain and the snow melted, raising the streams to flood stage, and there were no bridges. They nearly reached their goal, but when they got to the Sandusky River, opposite the frontier village of Lower Sandusky, now Fremont, they were unable to get across. They started back, but they had some difficulty in crossing one of the first streams, the Portage or Huron River, and John got so sick they decided to pause in a log cabin. When John got sicker, with the onset of pneumonia, Bell started on to get Dr. Seeley at Warren while Parsons stayed with the sick man. On January 29, 1813, John Stark Edwards died, and Parsons put his body on the horse for the long trail back to Warren, meeting Mrs. Edwards, Bell, and Dr. Seeley along the way.

Neither the widow of John Stark Edwards nor her brother-in-law, Ogden Edwards, evinced any interest in the islands which they owned together during the year of 1813, when stirring events were occurring there. The British developed a naval force on the Great Lakes, and General Harrison assigned Oliver Hazard Perry to build a fleet to meet this threat. Some boats were built in the woods back of Erie, Pennsylvania, manned by soldiers and sailed to the harbor at Put-in-Bay, and Perry so skillfully and valiantly maneuvered this force on September 10, 1813, that he was able to send a message to General Harrison, encamped at Old Fort, near Fremont, that "We have met the enemy and they are ours". One of Perry's men was James Ross, and Judge Ogden Edwards hired Ross to stay on South Bass Island. The island came to be known as Ross Island, a name which was later applied only to a small adjunct of South Bass Island at the edge of Square Harbor, and finally lost when this was connected by a fill to the larger island for use as the site of an ice house, fishery, and boat livery.

Judge Edwards retained his residence back in Connecticut, and after Ross died, on July 11, 1817, (he was buried on Gibraltar

Island, and has a stone marker there) Henry and Sally Hyde were sent out from Chatham to replace him. They arrived in 1818, and it is known that they herded some of the hogs and sheep which were the progeny of those established on the island in 1811 by Seth Doan. The Hydies had a child who died in 1821, and in 1824 they had a son born whom they named Darwin. Mrs. Hyde died in 1830, and in 1834 the rest of the family removed from the island to the Catawba Peninsula on the mainland.

In the early part of the decade which began in 1830 Ogden Edwards borrowed several thousand dollars, using the Bass Islands and an island in the Niagara River for security, promising to repay each loan in 90 days, and he defaulted on repayments. One of his notes was endorsed by Ebenezer Seeley, and Seeley had to pay the item, amounting to \$500.00, for Edwards, so Seeley got a court order, encumbering the Bass Islands for that amount. Some of the other notes were bought from the holders by Alfred P. Edwards, who was a younger brother of Ogden Edwards, and Alfred got the Huron County Court of Common Pleas to order the sheriff to sell the property to realize the amount of the debts. Alfred bought the islands for \$6298.00 at the sheriff's sale, and then cleared his title by buying Seeley's note for \$650.00 and by getting a quit-claim deed from William Edwards, the son of John Stark Edwards. Later he got a quit-claim deed also from Ogden Edwards in order to clear that last blot on his title, though this was after he had owned the islands for seventeen years, and was ready to sell them.

In any case, Alfred P. Edwards became the undisputed owner in 1836 of South Bass, Middle Bass, and Sugar Islands, and he set a program in motion at once to realize on his investment. He brought a labor crew onto South Bass Island and they cleared the trees from much of the island, as well as from Middle Bass and North Bass, although Edwards did not own North Bass Island. They shipped away their timber crop, selling the biggest trees for ship's timbers and the smaller ones for boiler fuel, and it appears probable that Edwards realized the amount of his investment from the timber crop. A two-storied white board house was erected on a site slightly back from, but overlooking the harbor, and a park-like front lawn was established. There were several sheds, one of them housing a blacksmith shop located so as to flank the main building, and there was a big barn built off to one side, while the sawmill was on a bight at the opposite side. Then there was a white picket fence placed around the house and yard to keep the foraging stock at suitable distance, and the place ultimately looked like a transplanted bit of New England.

Lumber was merchandise, and schooners began calling at regular intervals, taking away the lumber and bringing subsistence items to the people on the island. The owner spent only his summer in the "Manor House", but he kept a caretaker who may have occupied the big place during the winters. Philip Vroman was working on one of the schooners which called at South Bass Island in 1843, and Alfred P. Edwards persuaded him to come back in 1844 as a permanent resident. Vroman must have anticipated the community which finally developed, because in 1844 he became School Director for South Bass Island. However Vroman may have been employed by Edwards, he was not in charge of the properties in 1854, because Archibald Jones was then the foreman.

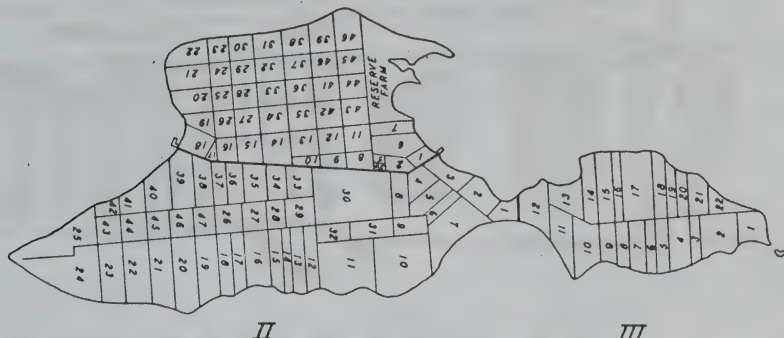
By 1852, Alfred P. Edwards appears to have harvested most of the marketable timber and to have lost some of his interest in spending much time on the islands, but he wrote from his office in New York City to sanction the proposed assembly of some people who wanted to put up a stone tribute to Oliver Hazard Perry for his victory over the British fleet forty years before. He even offered to give the site for the monument and to supply the stone and mortar, and his letter was read to the large number of people who met on the island in 1852, brought from Sandusky on the "Arrow", but nothing substantial came of it for many years.

Alfred P. Edwards had a daughter, Alice Glover Edwards, who saw a chance for a husband if she had some extra inducements, like an interesting dowry, so he gave her the islands in 1853. Alice became Mrs. Elisha Vinton, but Elisha insisted on the dowry being converted into money, so in 1854 she sold the islands to a Porto Rican merchant in New York City, Senor José DeRivera St. Jurgo.

When DeRivera bought the islands, he knew what he wanted done with them and he set about getting it done. Somehow he persuaded the busy county engineer, Ernst Franck, to leave his farm home down along the Portage River and spend his summers from 1858 through 1862 surveying and subdividing South Bass Island into ten acre lots (Plate II), and laying out the few roadways necessary to get from one end of the island to the other. At the same time, DeRivera kept Philip Vroman employed as foreman of a labor crew of potential settlers busy clearing land, repairing docks, and placing corner stones, which were marked "RSJ" around the lots. He sold the big white Manor House to Joseph W. Gray, the owner-publisher of the influential newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and many was the news item to the effect that Ye Editor, not feeling overwell, had hied himself to the peace and quietude of his lovely place on South Bass Island.

DeRivera had visited in Spain several times (he was a swarthy man, who wrote and spoke both English and Spanish excellently), and he surely had some knowledge of the arts of raising grapes and making wines. He recognized the island possibilities along this line, so he encouraged a number of recent German immigrants to work for him on South Bass Island, and arranged for some grape raising Germans from the Cincinnati area to visit the place. He had gotten Karl Ruh, Lorenz Miller, George Hinger, and Luke Meyer on the island between 1854 and 1859, and in 1859 Louis Harmes became

I



SOUTH BASS ISLAND

PLATE II

a resident, bringing along a few roots of Catawba grapevines. Harmes sold a few to each of the others (four to Karl Ruh), thus starting the industry locally.

During this period there were also a number of non-Germans settled on the island. The census of 1860 (made in 1859, of course) lists Joseph Shortliff (an Irishman who came by way of Canada), Dr. Luther Nelson (an M.D. from New York State who preferred raising sheep to practicing his profession), Philip and Simon Vroman (brothers, who came from Otsego County, New York, and settled on adjacent farms), and Thomas Dyer (whose name isn't German).

These early settlers did not concentrate on grapes and wine at first. They practiced the established system of self-sustaining agriculture, and their first listed crops were corn, potatoes, oats, and hay. There was no mention made of any grapes raised in 1859, but the crops listed for 1872 showed that a change was taking place to a one-crop system, with all of its disadvantages. The products raised in 1872 on the whole of Put-in-Bay township

(which had been organized in 1860 to tie the Bass Islands together), included 660 bushels of wheat, 700 bushels of oats, 6375 bushels of corn, 18 tons of hay, 2550 bushels of potatoes, 300 pounds of butter, 3,154,109 pounds of grapes, and 169,590 gallons of wine. This trend proceeded rapidly, and the 1879 crop, listed in the census of 1880, showed every land owner producing grapes and wine, with hardly a mention of anything else.

The Civil War slowed down the development of the island community, with Joseph Gray acting as recruiting agent here and sending the islanders away to serve with the Yankee army. Dr. Nelson's boy, Milton, enlisted and died in service on February 18, 1862. Two of the Webster boys, of Yankee origin but with funny French names, DeLaFevre and DeLaTorry, served and returned safely, and so did W. D. Pickens and James B. Murray. Some of the German residents of the island had come to the U. S. and had become citizens before the war, and therefore were subject to the draft, while others had not attained citizenship and were not draftable. Conrad Brookner was drafted but paid a substitute \$500 to go in his stead, and forever afterwards regretted his bargain because his substitute had served only as a teamster, completely safe from the dangers of battle for which he was paid to subject himself. Others of the undraftables, including Joseph Phillips, did get into battle though they went as paid substitutes for somebody who was drafted.

After the tragic episode at Harper's Ferry on October 16, 1859, some of the offspring of old John Brown found haven on South Bass Island. John Brown, Jr. settled his family here in 1862, and was joined presently by his brothers Owen and Jason, and his sister Ruth who came with her husband, Henry Thompson and family. John, Jr. became Deputy County Surveyor for the islands, and subdivided most of the lots into lesser units, as well as laid out the East Point road, and a few minor allotments. He had had some military experience in Kansas before coming to South Bass Island, and he had a flair for colorful leadership, like his father, so, when there was all of the local excitement attendant upon the capture of the "Philo Parsons" by escaped Confederate soldiers, he wrote to the authorities to offer to raise a company of militia to protect the whole archipelago against further mishaps. This offer was accepted, and rifles, bayonets, etc., were sent from Columbus to equip "Captain Brown's Independent Company of Militia". John Brown, Jr. also served on the local schoolboard, village council, etc., and was such an all around good citizen that President Cleveland removed the federal stigma from his name in 1890.

While all of these people were settling and building homes on

South Bass Island, they were laying the foundation for the permanent community which took organized form between 1860 and 1866. The three Bass Islands joined together in 1860 to form a new township, and matters of common concern were thereafter handled by three trustees, one from each island. The three islands also joined in April, 1863, to establish a School District, with each island constituting a separate subdistrict but all under a single Board of School Directors, and schools were established on all three islands that year. Curiously, the incentive for a church did not arise from within the community, but was injected from outside. De-Rivera donated the site and Jay Cooke donated the church and parsonage buildings for an Episcopal Church in 1865.

Docks fared better within the protected area of the harbor, and boats used this protection in docking at the island, so the harbor became the place where the islanders left and returned, where their products were shipped away and where their supplies were brought to them. When the buyers of island wines in Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit wanted to see the place where their fine wines were being produced, the waterfront took on the new character of the place where the spenders landed. In 1863 DeRivera donated the five acre tract of harbor frontage for Perry Park. Valentine Doller had made the squatter's log shack into a trading post and post office, close beside the dock, and when it prospered, he built a new frame structure, with a Hall above, a store on the street level, and a saloon in the basement (as far as I know, it was never called a "Ratskellar"). Henry B. West bought out the Manor House from the widow of Joseph Gray in 1864, and with Amander Moore (male) for a partner, ran it as the first Put-in-Bay House for the accommodation of visitors. Frederick Cooper had settled with his family in a small grout house, at the opposite end of the park which had developed on the waterfront out of the front lawn of Alfred P. Edwards' big house. Cooper built another room on the back end of his one floor house, and then another, and then another, until he had five, like a shoe-string, and people kept asking him to put them up for the night. So he took in Andrew Decker for a partner, and built on some more rooms, and named the place the "Island Home" in 1867.

People came, and more people came, until Put-in-Bay was like a new sort of Mecca, and the needs for accommodations and transportation increased at a terrific pace. The value of grape-producing land jumped up to as high as fifteen hundred dollars per acre, and the value of the waterfront jumped higher than that because of its possible use for summer cottage sites. Excursion steamers were

built on purpose to bring people from the cities to Put-in-Bay for a day's picnic, while other steamers were built for islanders to cross from one island to another. Big boats, with sleeping accommodations, transporting people while they slept, from Toledo to Cleveland, or from Detroit to Cleveland, managed to pause at Put-in-Bay to let off or to take on passengers. Whole small communities staged excursions, traveling to the big cities by train, spending all day on the boat and on the island, then back home by train late at night, with sleeping kids lying around everywhere.



FIG. 1—The Harbor at Put-in-Bay.

The Put-in-Bay House was greatly enlarged, finally forming a great frame building which extended from street to street, facing the park. The Island Home was enlarged into a huge frame building, with stables, bar, bowling alley and biergarten. William Gibbons built the two floors of a rooming house, and Andrew Hunker, who had run a confectionery shop in Toledo, moved to the island and in 1871 built the Hunker Hotel. Charley Graves, of Toledo, had his restaurant in Toledo taken apart and brought here for rebuilding so he could run his eating place here. Alois Niele, the cooper, took his small frame house in Sandusky apart and brought it to Put-in-Bay where he put it together again alongside of his cooperage shop, and he made wine casks and water pails, and other items for local use. Kaspar Schraidt sold his farm on East Point in 1864 and bought another from the fisherman, L.

Anthony, close in to town, then built a house and a saloon and weingarten.

Although many of the islanders built their own homes, George Gascoyne, who came here in 1869 to build the addition on the Put-in-Bay House, was the contractor who got many of the buildings erected. It was Gascoyne who in 1875 built the "Steamboat-Gothic" house for the Toledo railroad agent and Merchant, J. B. Monroe, still standing at the inner edge of East Point, though now used only as a summer home. When Clinton Idlor became somewhat prosper-



FIG. 2.—The Gothic Monroe house is now a summer home.

ous by running Doller's store, he had Gascoyne, the contractor, build him a rather ornate place down next to the church, conveniently located for Mrs. Idlor who liked to sing in the church. Many of the typically northern-Ohio style farm houses on the island were built by Gascoyne. Actually, much of the carpentering was done by Adam Heidle, who also had the trick of building the pull-wheels used to haul ice up into ice houses.

Grape growing and wine making involved intensive efforts during some seasons, but there was little to be done during the early spring and fall, so many of the land owners, whose acreage was in the form of strips, each with waterfrontage, also had fishing rigs; and with their boys as fishing partners, they carried on commercial fishing operations. When members of the next generation were ready to go into business, some of the boys carried on the farming business, some continued the fisheries, and others moved into the community center to run boats, restaurants, hotels, or concessions.

Competition developed among the islanders for the grape and wine market, and Valentine Doller teamed with George Whitney to start a cooperative winery. The grape growers sold their grapes at nearly the cost of producing them to this winery, and the producers all bought stock so as to share in the profits made by selling the wine. A new, big winery was built beside the road to the caves where it would be passed by visitors to the caves, and it housed the Put-in-Bay Wine Company. Unfortunately, this did not remain a cooperators' business, but Doller and Whitney got control of it



FIG. 3.—A summer home on the West Shore of South Bass Island.

and ran it as a private enterprise. It became one of several wineries on the island which installed distilleries to make brandy, but this was discontinued when the requirements for licensing and bonding became burdensome.

The failure of the financial house of Jay Cooke in 1873 precipitated a period of depression throughout the nation which lasted for five years, yet during this period the island developed to its peak of prosperity. The Bing Hotel was built in 1874, the ornate house was built for J. B. Monroe in 1875, and many houses were erected at about this time. The people who had business establishments near the harbor petitioned the county commissioners to incorporate the community center into a village, and the Village of Put-in-Bay was incorporated on June 15, 1877.

On August 31, 1878, the community suffered a disastrous fire which razed the Put-in-Bay House, the Bing Hotel, and Chris Doller's residence. The steamer "B. F. Ferris" brought over the San-

dusky fire fighting equipment, and although nothing could have stopped the destruction of the big frame buildings, some other buildings nearby, including Herbster's Hotel, were saved. In any case, the island accommodations for visitors dropped suddenly, and the entire island economy was seriously affected.

In the autumn of that same year, 1878, Gascoyne, Doller, and Wehrle joined forces to start a new business on the island, the business of cutting ice in the winter and storing it in big sheds for shipment the following summer to Cleveland. Gascoyne brought



FIG. 4—The Jay Cooke Castle, on Gibraltar Island, is now a college dormitory.

down a load of Saginaw pine and got the storage sheds built so as to store ice during the winter of 1879-80, and ice was shipped on the schooner "Iosco" to Cleveland in the summer of 1880.

The independent school district of South Bass Island was established in 1880, and the school properties, particularly the East Point schoolhouse and the "Schoolhouse on the Hill," were transferred to the ownership of the new district.

The need for hotel accommodations was acute and several steps were taken to meet this need. In 1883, Valentine Doller had the second Put-in-Bay House built on about the same site as the first, but the second was much smaller and less pretentious than the first had been, and had accommodations for fewer transients. The Gill House was built for Fred and Celia Gill on part of the space which had been the yard of the first Put-in-Bay House, about 1884, and in 1884, Henry Reibel from Cincinnati enlarged the small cot-

tage he had bought from Joseph Beckstead in order to accommodate the people who came up to see him from the southern part of Ohio. The Park Hotel was built in the winter of 1887-8 for a man known as "Round-House" Smith, and Smith had the dome-covered round house built in Toledo, then brought here to be assembled on the site it still occupies. Herman Herbster had the saloon-restaurant concession on the steam ferry "B. F. Ferris" which ran from Sandusky to the islands in 1871, and he opened a bakeshop on the corner lot of Amander Moore's subdivision, in back of the Put-in-Bay House. This developed into a restaurant-saloon-rooming house about 1878, and only a favorable wind saved it from the big fire. In 1888, the brick building was erected for the use of both village and township officials.

A clever promoter named J. K. Tillotson projected a grandiose scheme for reorienting the island community, giving it a new focal center at the other end of the island, around Stone's Cove. He sold stock in all cities within range, including all close ones and some as far away as St. Louis and Martin's Ferry, and the big Hotel Victory was started in 1889. The financing must have involved some uncertainties, because the lumber for its construction was held on the local dock pending payment for freight and dockage. Nevertheless, it did get built, and held its grand opening on the fourth of July, 1892. It was a large, frame structure, with facilities for accommodating 2000 people per day, and was best suited to large conventions, but the cost of its operations appears to have exceeded its income, and it changed hands at intervals. A land boom accompanied its construction, with Tillotson also organizing the Put-in-Bay Water Works, Light, and Rail Company, and advertising his plan for installing an electric car line circuit from the village park around Peach Point and along the west shore to pass the Victory Hotel and return down the Stone's Cove road, past the caves. The Victory Woods was minutely subdivided into hundreds of lots which were sold for cottage sites, and the buyers had visions of the electric car line service from town stores to their doors.

A street car line was installed and operated from the village park out the stone road to the Victory Hotel and back again, with a by-passing side track at the caves, and many of the island men worked for greater or less intervals as motorman or conductor on this line during the period of its operation, from 1892 through 1915. However, the projected line around Peach Point to the woods did not materialize, and the multitude of small lots in the Victory Woods have remained simply rock acreage.

During the decade preceding the turn of the century, the ferry boats and excursion steamers continued to bring considerable numbers of visitors to the island but more of them came for the boat ride and spent only a few hours in the village park, and the need for hotel accommodations declined. The hotels did not pay dividends and so were not kept up, nor even kept operating efficiently. The Beebe House finally closed its doors, and then Valentine Doller's second Put-in-Bay House burned down in 1909.

An attempt to revive the resort business on the island was made by a group of islanders who came to be known as "The Big Four", namely, Sahnke Johanssen, Henry Fox, Matt Ingold, and Gustav Heineman. They organized the Put-in-Bay Improvement Co., and had the big white frame "Colonial" dance hall built, at a cost of \$40,000; and they hired Finzel's dance orchestra from Detroit to provide as good music as they could buy, for many seasons. They installed a boiler-operated generator plant to provide electric lights in their dance hall, and they obtained the one liquor license allowed on the island from John Brick so as to be able to sell alcoholic beverages at the bar in one end of the Colonial. Then the same four men incorporated separately as the Put-in-Bay Resort Company in order to subdivide some tracts of acreage into lots for cottage sites. After nearly effecting a monopoly on the catering business on the island they ran into a slump. In 1914 or 1915, the local Improvement and Resort Companies went broke, and the Big Four individuals barely managed to save their own homes, selling everything else they could, at any price.

In 1910, Wm. H. Reinhart, a wine merchant of Sandusky, took over the old Beebe House, and after spending many thousands of dollars in refurnishing and refinishing the place, opened it with a splurge as the Hotel Commodore. In 1913 he realized that he had a white elephant on his hands, and sold his lease to the Schlitz Brewing Company, of Detroit, and they operated the place for the exclusive use of their employees.

During the period of World War I, the State of Michigan was voted "dry", and many residents of that state came on excursion steamers to Put-in-Bay, in "wet" Ohio. Wild parties were the order of the night at the main hotels, so that the community found it necessary to keep a police force of six men during this period, and this condition led into the Prohibition era. With normal, legitimate business at low ebb, and with their strategic location for importing Canadian products, the islands became the center of an extensive liquor industry. Many islanders who had led exemplary lives until then, somehow or other, became involved in the law-violating but

profitable bootleg trade, and this was about as demoralizing an influence on the community as the speed laws were for most drivers of automobiles. The social consequences of disregard for one set of laws promotes a similar disregard for other laws, and this early flaunting of the prohibition law may have been directly responsible for the flaunting of state laws for regulating hunting and fishing and for eliminating slot machines and gambling. The breakdown of the habit of obeying some of the rules of social ethics also shows in tolerance for misbehavior on the part of visitors to the island, providing always that the visitors are free spenders.

From Decoration Day through Labor Day each year, the docks at the village park form the focal center of almost the entire community, because these are the places where the boats unload spenders. Visitors come on the regular ferry boats from Catawba, Sandusky, and Port Clinton, on the excursion steamers from Detroit and Cleveland, and on privately owned boats of great variety of kinds and values. The activities during the early part of the summer season all tend to tide things along, and they increase in intensity up to the grand climax of the annual Interlake Regatta. This event is staged during the first week in August each year, and while many fine people, with a major interest in sailboating, attend this feature, many other people use the ensuing excitement as an alibi for extreme licentiousness. After the Regatta, the resumption of the excursion and normal ferry business is always an anti-climax, just a tiding along again until Labor Day brings the resort season to an end, with an exodus of cottagers whose children must return to school.

From the day after Labor Day through nine months to the following Decoration Day the community concerns itself with those activities which are essential to existence in comparative isolation from the rest of the world. The dock and the airport resume their basic functions of facilitating the arrival and departure of the islanders, their products for exportation and the supplies they import. The focal center of the winter community consists of the one block of buildings on the Stone Road, housing the general store of Schnoor and Fuchs, the telephone exchange, the Doctor's office and the Village school, Parker's Garage on one side of the street, and on the other side is Stoiber's Store, the electric shop of the Ohio Public Service Co., the Post Office, the Oddfellows' Hall, the Town Hall, Rittman's Grocery and Meat Shop, Kinzler's Machine Shop, and Tony's Saloon. Beyond the school, but just within the village limits the Catholic Church is on one side of the street and the Episcopal Church is on the other. The Ohio State University's Research Laboratory and staff homes and the State Fish Hatchery

with its workers' homes are located outside of the village limits, on Oak Point and Peach Point.

Considering their actual income, the islanders enjoy an unusually high standard of living. The housewives are ingenious at making the best use of every item, and the houses are generally neat and in good order. The households have shown great stability, and there are records of only 20 divorces in the community families. Thirty-two island families have adopted or raised children other than their own.

In 1943 islanders were gainfully employed in the following ways:

1 airplane pilot	5 housemaids	12 sales clerks
1 airplane mechanic	1 elevator operator	4 school teachers
2 auto mechanics	23 farmers	2 stenographers
1 barber	3 fish culturists	3 village officials
9 bartenders	13 fishermen	16 waiters
1 beauty parlor operator	1 gadget repairman	4 vintners
6 biologists	3 housekeepers	13 cooks
5 boat builders and repair men	1 lighthouse keeper	6 day laborers
	1 mason	2 bait dealers
15 boat operators	2 music teachers	3 fuel dealers
3 boiler operators	3 paper hangers	1 doctor
4 bookkeepers	2 postal clerks	2 preachers
7 caretakers	1 plasterer	1 practical nurse
7 carpenters	4 plumbers	

The age-group distribution of the people on South Bass Island in 1943 was as follows:

47 people from 1 day to 15 years.	50 people from 56 years to 65 years.
14 people from 16 years to 25 years.	36 people from 66 years to 75 years.
18 people from 26 years to 35 years.	11 people from 76 years to 85 years.
44 people from 36 years to 45 years.	3 people from 86 years to 90 years.
50 people from 46 years to 55 years.	

CHAPTER IV

THE ROLE OF SUB-GROUPS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The possession of some common interest by a number of people has led to aggregation of those people into sub-groups of the over-all community. For instance, each class in school and Sunday-school has tended to form a distinct group. Men have gathered in social organizations, while the women have formed parallel organizations, such as the Oddfellows and Rebeccas, the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, the poker players and the bridge players. The people who work together in a business organization tend to develop strong loyalties to the group, and the group of business leaders have gathered together to form promotional organizations for the group welfare. There was once a company of militiamen organized here for the protection of the community against the possible dangers of attack by escaped soldiers from the Confederate prison camp on Johnson's Island, and there has been a local Volunteer Fire Department, consisting of all able-bodied men on the island, for the common good.

All sub-groups have gathered around one or more individuals who have shown leadership in promoting activities for the group good, and there have been some groups which have been so closely integrated that they have had considerable effect upon the community. Some of these sub-groups are the following:

1. *Chamber of Commerce.* This started as a local Board of Trade before 1910, and kept that name until 1923 when it became a Kiwanis Club, but it was renamed the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce in 1924, and it is now the smallest affiliate of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. It includes all of the local business men, and its activities are directed principally at promoting the transient trade.

2. *Dramatics Club.* According to traditions, there were numerous local talent productions of light or heavy drama and of comedy in the good old days. There were several veterans of the Civil War on the island, and the earliest shows were largely inspired by wartime experiences, one dealing with the sufferings of a Yankee soldier in the Andersonville prison. In 1888, the new

Town Hall was used for the story of western adventure known as "Nevada," and about 1890 there was a comedy called "The Irish Schoolmaster." George Gascoyne, a war veteran, starred in this as well as in other shows. Playing the part of the schoolmaster, he took a drink of whiskey every time he left the stage, and became amusingly tipsy toward the end of the show. Frank Herbster and Matt Hinger played the parts of prankster school boys, finally loading gunpowder in a length of stovepipe, and firing it like a gun underneath the teacher's desk. The hall got filled with smoke, and the audience was hilarious.

The Dramatics Club derived considerable revenue from their public performances, and they used their surplus funds for various community enterprises, including the construction of the sea-wall along the shoreline of the village park, and the placing of the heavy relic cannons and cannon balls in the park.

All of the members of this early group had some ability to play one or more musical instruments, or to sing, or whistle, or indulge in some other form of entertainment. Bill Riedling was an expert whistler and a good violinist, and he performed at many local shows. Tom Alexander came here as an actor in a vaudeville troupe, and remained for the rest of his life; and he participated actively as well as served as coach for the local amateurs. Herman Von Dohren could play many kinds of musical instruments, and the family of Andrew Schiele played several instruments together. Edith Brown and George Senne were both able musicians, and both led their own orchestras as well as participated in group musicales. In the early 1900's the men working at the State Fish Hatchery formed an orchestra to play at dances. George Senne and Frank Miller played violins; Luke Meyer, equipped for comedy effects with a goatee, a calabash pipe, and a big diamond ring, played the bass viol; George Miller played the flute; Bert Millen played the guitar; and Fritz Burggraf played a cornet.

3. *Hunting and Fishing Club.* This was organized about 1937 to promote an influx of transients to hunt or fish on South Bass Island. Its most active members were the islanders who benefited by this special-purpose invasion, such as those furnishing transportation to and from the island, taxi-service on the island, guide service to the hunting or fishing areas, and lodging and meals. This group disintegrated in 1944 when it became apparent that they could not persuade the land-owning islanders to save the game for the open hunting season.

4. *Put-in-Bay Yacht Club.* This was organized to facilitate the annual Interlake Regatta; its members meet in December to extend

the invitation for the next year's shindig, and then play host when the clan gathers, each August. It owns a club house which sees service only during the annual regattas, and it owes its possession of this building and its furnishings to the generosity of former Commodores of the InterLake Yachting Association.

5. *First Ice Yacht Club.* Active in the 1880s, with its membership consisting of the town's young and active business men. They met in the laundry of Hunker's Bath House. This group developed around John Hess, who came to Put-in-Bay to work for George Gascoyne, bringing with him his ice yacht, the "Gypsy", with her three spars and lateen sails.

6. *Second Ice Yacht Club.* This group consisted of the islanders who were slightly younger than those of the First Ice Yacht Club. They indulged in other social activities than ice yachting, putting on a masquerade ball in the Town Hall about in the year 1900. This group broke up about 1915.

7. *Parent-Teacher's Assembly.* An open forum type of meeting is held once each month in the village school. The membership is largely feminine, with a few exceptions. The organization buys books and special equipment for the school children, raising funds for the purpose by sponsoring moving picture shows, salvaging and selling waste paper, staging bake sales, etc.

8. *The Oddfellows.* The local chapter was founded in 1889. It has held its meetings in the Schiele Hall during the entire period, though it nearly disintegrated over disagreement about a plan to meet elsewhere. It was a strong, coherent group until this happened, in the 1920s, but it has few active members in 1945. During the period of their greatest strength, they patronized fellow members exclusively whenever possible, thus constituting an economic force in the community.

9. *The Rebeccas* founded the Lone Willow Lodge here on April 6, 1922. Limited at first to the wives or sisters or daughters of Oddfellows, they have removed this limitation, and they now form a strong active group, meeting regularly in the Schiele Hall.

10. *Athletic Club.* Many of the immigrants had become expert athletes as youths in Germany, and Fred Bretz, Hugo Engel, and others were good boxers. They promoted an Athletic Club which persisted actively for some time, including in its membership Bert Hinger, Chas. Bullock (tried to fly with wings—jumped off hatchery and got bashed up), Bill Kiinzler, and George Rittman.

11. *Baseball Team.* In 1912 the Superintendent of Schools, R. J. Albers, organized and managed a good baseball team. On it were the following: Bernard McCann, Norman and Harold Schiele, Ed and Harry Ladd, Carl and Arnold Burggraf, Herbert and Norman Heineman, and Emil Ritter. The mascot was John Traverso.

12. *Cock Fighters.* In the late 1880s and 1890s many of the island men indulged in the sport of cock fighting, with the fights held in the old Museum. Each of the following men had a couple of game cockerels: Bird Chapman, Ephriam Foster, George Gascoyne, Hugo Engel, Pop Ladd, Alf. Parker, and Kasper Schraidt. The sport died out here about 1900 with the following incident, related by Ted Phillips.

Mrs. Joseph Phillips hatched a setting of eggs, and one of the chicks was a little ash-colored cock, with some game-cock heritage, but a nondescript bird. About the time he got nearly full-grown, with inch long spurs, he tangled with and killed one of Alf Parker's prize game cocks. Alf came hunting for his bird and found him dead in the Phillips' garden, and Jos. Phillips found blood on his nondescript bird. So Alf Parker brought over his other game-cock for revenge, but the nondescript killed him also. Then Parker wanted to buy the nondescript, but Phillips would not sell.

About this time in some matched fights, Schraidt's birds had killed Chappie's game cocks, and Chappie tried to buy Phillips' nondescript, without success. However, Joe loaned the cock to Chappie and Chapman matched him with Schraidt's birds and killed them, all three. Then Jos. Phillips reclaimed his bird and wouldn't permit him to fight again, and the sport was dropped.

13. *The Theatrical Group.* The actors' colony on Peach Point is now little more than a tradition, with Sue Snyder and Carl and Gussie Nixon the lone remnants of a once virile group. Many of the cottages on Peach Point were built for the various members of the group, and because actors are generally "on the road" during the winter seasons, these cottages became their permanent summer headquarters, and their only real homes.

Tom Alexander was the first actor to locate on South Bass Island. He first visited the island as a member of the Carey Lewis troupe which played here summer after summer. Tom married Edith Brown, the daughter of John Brown, Jr., and became a permanent resident. He was active in all community affairs, and served several terms as Mayor of the Village of Put-in-Bay.

Ross Lewis and the Three Grimes Sisters brought their act to Put-in-Bay just at the time when Schiele and Hollway were dividing Peach Point into resort lots, and Ross Lewis had the first

cottage built on the Point, at its tip, in 1904. Lewis had a sister, Sue, who was married to Jack Snyder, and they had played their hooper act all around the world. When they visited Sue's brother on South Bass Island they succumbed to the charms of the place, and established their home and headquarters near Sue's brother. Jack Snyder was an artist at painting as well as at dancing, and produced some excellent sea-scapes of this region.

Mrs. Ross Lewis had a brother, John Henning, who was an actor teammate of her husband's, and the Hennings also had a cottage built on Peach Point. Other actors, who were friends of those established on South Bass Island, came to visit and remained as cottage owners. These included Fred Whitfield, Frank Willing, and Harry Bannister. Frank Osborn had theatrical connections of some kind, as play-wright or producer. He came here on his yacht for many years, but finally had two cottages built on Peach Point.

According to tradition, the permanent islanders looked askance at the members of the actors' group, denying them participating in island affairs for many years. This barrier was broken down, however, when the actors organized a show of top-notch talent to raise funds for the local Yacht Club.

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14. *The Ohio State University Group.* The Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory at Put-in-Bay, is the biological station of the Ohio State University. The station consists of Gibraltar Island, a six-acre limestone exposure which forms a natural breakwater for the harbor, and about four acres on South Bass Island. By lease, the staff and students have the privilege of trespass and study on forty-acre Green Island and eighty-acre West Sister Island, and many of the other islands are visited each summer for study purposes.

Gibraltar Island was acquired through the generosity of Dr. Julius F. Stone who wished to promote researches on problems connected with the fishes of the Great Lakes, a food supply of great potential value to our nation. On this island there are a three story brick laboratory, three dormitories (Fig. 4), dining hall, and a shop. On South Bass Island the properties include a research laboratory (the former U. S. Fish Hatchery), a shop, two faculty homes, and a residence hall (the former Oak Point Club House).

The U. S. Fish Hatchery property, including a large frame building, a shop, and a residence, was deeded to the University for use as a fisheries research laboratory by Congressional Act in 1940. The Oak Point House was purchased by the Ohio Division of Conservation and leased to the University to promote the fisheries research program, and the same agency supplies further subsidy and assistance.

Since 1937 the Stone Laboratory has been the only American fresh-water biological station operating on the twelve-months basis. Ichthyology, limnology, and ornithology are the fields of investigation which are receiving major attention, with great benefit to summer students who are presented the full picture instead of the usual "summer only" view. The station functions as a regular department of the University, with an excellent departmental library and a full-time staff which is engaged principally with its researches except during the summer quarter when there are more students in attendance.

Some social problems were created in the South Bass Island community when the Ohio State University began to operate its biological station as a full-time research station. The small, closely integrated island community received the addition of the few staff members, who moved onto the island at a time when quite a number of islanders were removing from the island because of hard times, entirely without warmth. The academicians enjoyed the respect of colleagues elsewhere, and were capable of conducting researches which involved complicated procedures with intricate apparatus. They were not in economic competition with islanders, because no islanders had the training and background to do the things which the scientists were doing, and the salaries of the scientists came from off-island. Something new had been added, which meant nothing out of their pockets and something in, because the scientists paid their way, but the scientists did not become active participants in matters of community concern. They were in fact, citizens of a larger world, with memberships in national and international organizations, and with their best friends and relatives elsewhere. Under these conditions, the integration of the university people into the South Bass Island community has not been possible, and will surely not occur unless the pattern changes in some major way.

15. *Church Groups.* The first church on South Bass Island owed its origin to the evangelistic spirit of Jay Cooke. He saw here a thriving small community which lacked any religious organization, and his acquisition of Gibraltar Island and establishment on it of the palatial summer home, was dictated in no small measure by the opportunity he saw for promoting a religious organization in the group of islanders. He provided the plans and money to erect the board and batten Gothic style church and the cruciform parish house on land which DeRivera, a Catholic, had donated for the purpose, and the church opened its doors in October, 1865 (affiliated at first with the Protestant Episcopal Church).

Cooke attempted to increase the local interest in church attend-

ance by supplying special pastors for many of the regular services. He had one son who become a preacher, and Cooke brought many preachers to Put-in-Bay for vacations on Gibraltar Island. He sent some of these visitors to the pulpit on South Bass Island, whether or not they chanced to be ordained Episcopalians. The church Synod took exception to this procedure, so, on Jay Cooke's recommendation, the local parish separated from the larger organization in 1869, and became an Independent Church of Christ. Cooke probably paid most of the costs of upkeep during this period, and even during the later years he contributed an annual sum of \$200.00 toward the pastor's salary, though this was discontinued at his death.

When this church was first organized, in 1865, the proportion of non-Germans to Germans was much greater than at a later date. The cultural backgrounds of the non-Germans (largely Yankee and English), favored participation in a Protestant church, and the gift of the lovely building promoted attendance. At that early date, there was no Catholic church on the island, and most of the residents probably affiliated with the first church to be organized. Whatever similarity exists between the Episcopal Church services and those of the Lutherans also doubtless made St. Paul's acceptable to many of the immigrant Germans. The older generation of non-Germans, including Jay Cooke, had passed out of the active group, and there was an overwhelmingly German group of parishioners in 1889, when a new pastor, the Reverend Horton, promoted affiliation with the Toledo Synod of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

About 1875, the Roman Catholic Church erected a board and batten building in the middle of the island, making a miscalculation rare to that organization, as to the location of a suitable center for activities. They remedied this error about 1925 by having a new stone building, of the style known as "Lombard Romanesque", erected directly across the street from the charming Gothic Episcopal Church. Although the old church building was razed, the lane down the middle of the island is still occasionally referred to as "the old Catlic church road".

The local prelate serves both Kelly's Island and South Bass Island, and the church records have been kept at the Kelly Island establishment, but the parishioners seem to be about as numerous on one island as on the other. The collections are about as great from one group as from the other, and the present priest is proud of the fact that he has reduced the debt on the local church from \$37,000 to \$30,000 in the six years of his assignment to this parish.

In general, there always have been more non-Catholics than Catholics in the island community. Because of the relatively small

number of island families, the choice of matrimonial partners has been quite limited; and many marriages have crossed the barriers of religious credalism. (Fig. 5.)

Religious differences are not allowed to play any part in many island activities, such as funerals, card-parties, and dances, or even church suppers, and both prelates commonly participate in bestowing the benedictions or in asking grace at school graduation ceremonies. There is only a common burying ground for members of both sects, and a common school for all island children. Members



FIG. 5—A rice shower greets bride and groom, emerging from church.

of the School Board and of the teaching staff represent both credes, and the two partners in one of the island stores are representatives of the two church organizations.

16. *Summer Resident Group.* The permanent population of South Bass Island numbered about 350 people in 1944. This group is supplemented by 276 people who come to spend the summer months in cottages which are their summer homes. (Fig. 3.) These consist of 86 households, of whom 82 own their own cottages and four are regular tenants. Seven of the 86 also own extra housing which they rent for income, and two others rent rooms to transient visitors. Including these nine households which derive income on South Bass Island by renting houses or rooms, there are 21 households which contain wage earners, and ten of these earn all of their summer living costs at this vacation spot.

The summer residents maintain permanent homes elsewhere, one in New York, five in West Virginia, six in Pennsylvania, twenty-one in Michigan, and 243 in Ohio. Of those from Ohio, 156 come from cities which are on or near the shore of Lake Erie, and the others from cities downstate. Very few of the people from any one city maintain any contacts in their winter home cities, and there is little or no evidence of city groups on the island.

Various motives have led these people to establish their summer homes on South Bass Island. In some cases, friendship with someone on the island has played a determining part. Most of them came to the island casually, on excursions or as visitors on yachts, liked the place well enough to rent a cottage for a week or two, later rented a cottage for an entire season, and finally bought a lot and had a cottage built upon it. Some of them came to the island to earn their living, renting for a few summers, then buying in order to have dependable or better housing.

Some of the summer residents have come to South Bass Island since about 1900, and their children now have children, but many people lack interest as adults in spending their summers in the place they spent their summers as children, and they sell the parental summer homestead.

17. *The Real Islanders.* The largest and closest-knit subgroup of the community consists of those people who, because of certain traditions and relationships, possess such a strong sense of territorialism that they consider themselves to be the only real islanders. Common to the members of this group is the cherished heritage of some ancestors who emigrated from Baden, Germany. A few other residents, whose ancestors came from Prussia, have not fitted well into the group. Most of the families are related by marriages within the last four generations, but the numbers of families are great enough to preclude inbreeding. Some of the families occupy the homesteads which their ancestors cleared, while others have shifted from house to house; but the sense of territorialism extends to a feeling of group control over the whole island.

The small number of Yankee early settlers have left but little trace of their presence on the island, and there is also almost no cultural heritage from the few settlers whose origins were in England or Ireland. The first family of the permanent community consisted of a Yankee woman married to a man who had been born in New York of Palatinate German ancestry. Their descendants have all married off-islanders, and most of them live elsewhere, but the family's prior claim to some island territory persists. The descendants of other Yankees, whose fathers married German women,

are in the group. Descendants of an immigrant Irishman and his English wife have married German women, but while the sons of one of them are in the group, the sons of another have developed cultural interests which make them incompatible, so they have withdrawn from the group.

The pertinent facts indicate that changes have been taking place in the value system of this group. The original members, i.e., the ancestors of those now constituting the group, seem to have striven hard and to have been content with moderate returns from their strenuous efforts. The development of the transient trade brought a constant stream of new customers, and this type of business permitted the extraction of immoderate returns for less strenuous efforts. A few off-islanders, who have helped promote this easy money kind of trade, have been conceded membership in the present group, regardless of their origins. A few other off-islanders, whose attitudes of tolerance have not seemed to challenge the current sets of values, have also been included, though on a non-competitive basis. Exclusion from the group is the real islanders way of meeting any one's challenge to their sets of values, though re-appraisal of those sets of values might be strongly indicated.

Except for the changes noted above, the real islanders have clung to certain common cultural traits. They idealize the concept of their pioneer ancestors that labor to produce something by manual skills is the essential contribution which must be made by everyone towards the welfare of the community. Culture, per se, has low place in their sets of values, and those of their children who go after higher schooling are after more lucrative skills, not culture. They spend very little time just reading; they have to be doing something with their hands, and many of them are real craftsmen. Their techniques, developed in meeting special island conditions, are standardized; other ways of doing things will not work; they know, without trying. They exclude alien ideas by prejudgement, and are not easily influenced. They extoll this characteristic of certain outstanding members of their own group, and say that bull-headedness runs in certain families.

This cultural trait is wreaking havoc with the island's limited natural resources. Lawns and fields must be burned over at certain seasons, and the urgent need of the soil for additional humus does not change this practice. The vine rows must be slanted so as to drain downslope towards the shoreline, though this leads to loss of topsoil and reduction in productivity. Cattle are placed to browse in woodlots, though the woodlot's days are numbered when the young trees are nipped in the bud. Trees and brush must be kept

cleared from the shoreline, though this practice exposes the water margins to wave wash and loss of land.

In a less important way, the persistence of cultural patterns is amusing. Grapevines must be tied first with willow withes, and later the sprawling young shoots must be tied out of the way of the spraying machine with rye straw. The second tying may be omitted if the season is pressing, in which case the vines can be tucked up out of the way. If the same practices are not followed in California, where over 90% of the American grapes are being produced, the Californians do not know the first thing about raising grapes.

Most of the old German families on the island have been matriarchies, and there have been a lot more aged widows than widowers in the community. Behind a lot of masculine bluster, there has usually been a dominant woman, and the most vigorous territorialism is displayed by the woman. Most of the island women have run their houses well, besides helping out in the vineyards, and many of them have worked summers in the downtown joints. They have not only added to the family's financial reserves but they have managed them as well, and it appears that the island men have been content to have it so, as long as they have had good meals, warm beds, and companionship. Most of the island women have been skillful at sewing, washing, canning, and cooking, and the German influence may be seen in the hasenpfeffer, nefflies, pfeffernusse, springerles, kuchen and fastnachs made by them. Their thrift was exemplified by the housewife who hurried in to the post office to buy ten dollars worth of two-cent stamps on the day before the scheduled raise in letter rates to three cents.

The attitude of the island men can be considered exemplified by Charley in the following conversation. Milt arranged one autumn to have Charley spray his fruit trees before the following spring, but the fall, winter and spring months passed without Charley getting the spraying done. Finally, Milt went to see Charley and said, "Charley, the orchards on the mainland have all been sprayed, and I think it's high time you were getting mine done."

"Oh, you know those people on mainland, Milt," answered Charley. "They ain't got nothin' else to do but work."

The old island cemetery is full of headstones bearing German words such as "Hier liegt ---, geborenen im --- und gestorben ---". Many of the real islanders can speak the German language, and a few may do so in their homes, but it is seldom heard in public except in an occasional exclamation or proverb. Henry Fox, mayor of the village in 1896, and again from 1933 to 1948, used a charming proverb to me when, thanking me for some pictures of his golden

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wedding, he added in apology for lack of something more substantial, "Aber, von Danken, sind der Pretigers Huhne tot."

When the telephone cable had just been laid over to Middle Bass Island, V. Doller started talking in German to Wehrle, and Wehrle looked at his instrument in amazement, exclaiming, "Mein Gott! It speaks Deutsch yet."

Many islanders are known as, called and referred to, by nicknames. None outside of the group is so honored, so it is evidence of "belonging." Nicknames such as "Doc" and "Cap" are not listed because they are applied to doctors and captains, and nicknames like "Gene" for Eugene are not listed since they are almost the real name. Doubtless many have failed to come to our attention.

'Ab'.....Amadea Ohlemacher
 'Anna Jay'.....Mrs. Jay Fox
 'Base'.....Kenneth Morrison
 'Boopy'.....Edwin Market
 'Boots'.....Robt. Parker
 'Bubb'.....Wilbur Dodge
 'Bud'.....Ethan Fox, Jr.
 'Butch'.....Geo. Rittman
 'Can'.....Edmund Miller
 'Carb'.....Wm. Dodge
 'Chappie'.....Guy Chapman
 'Cissy'.....Elizabeth N. Keimer
 'Kuchen'.....Lee Miller
 'Cotton'.....Cliff Morrison
 'Cotton'.....Lyle Dugan
 'Curley'.....Ralph Kiefer
 'Cyclone'.....Morris Waldorf
 'Dutch'.....Hugo Warner
 'Grady'.....Margaretta A. Fuchs
 'Grunt'.....Granville Heuchehele
 'Hank'.....Henry Gangwish
 'Happy'.....Wilbert Wertenbach
 'Heavy'.....Clatus Marsh
 'Heinie'.....Henry Rinehart
 'Hike'.....Oscar Heidle
 'Jesse James'.....DeOrr Webster
 'Jump'.....George Miller

'Jap'.....Paul Webster
 'Joey'.....Josephine Webster
 'Kernel'.....Carl Ruh
 'Lib'.....Elizabeth Meyer
 'Lolla'.....Laura Miller
 'Mary Lee'.....Mrs. Lee Miller
 'Mick'.....Maurice Arndt
 'Midge'.....Mildred Dodge
 'Mike'.....Wm. Smith
 'Mitch'.....Earl Hallock
 'Moses' or 'Moe'...David Cassetta
 'Mucker'.....Bill Miller, Jr.
 'Nick'.....Vernor Fox
 'Red'.....Lloyd Morrison
 'Salty'.....Emil Wiesler
 'Schride'.....Erwin Heidle
 'Sid'.....Wilson Webster
 'Skinny'.....Earl Parker
 'Skip'.....Roy Thompson
 'Stub'.....Russell Smith
 'Ted'.....Theodore Phillips
 'Ted'.....Juanita P. McCann
 'Wheaty'.....Henry Broderson
 'Schwartz'.....Bill Market
 'Swede'.....Harold Wilhelm
 'Snotty'.....Everett Anton
 'Cahgo'.....Roy Webster

CHAPTER V

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Before the American Revolution, the region which includes the Bass Islands was claimed independently by Connecticut, Virginia, and New York. Virginia's House of Burgesses established the County of Botetourt for organization of land northwest of the Ohio River, but this unit was dissolved in 1784, and New York ceded her claims in 1781. Pennsylvania established her western boundary in 1786 by surveying a north-south line from the Ohio River northward to Lake Erie, and that same year saw the release by Connecticut of her claims to all lands west of a line 120 miles west of the Pennsylvania boundary. The land between the western boundary of Pennsylvania and this new line, 120 miles to the westward, from the 41st parallel of latitude north to the shores of Lake Erie, was conceded to belong to Connecticut, and was known as the Connecticut Western Reserve.

The Confederated Congress adopted on July 13, 1787, an ordinance which Thomas Jefferson had sponsored, for government of the region lying northwest of the Ohio River, the Northwest Territory. This provided for the formation of not less than three nor more than five states, and, eventually, the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, were formed out of the territory. The same ordinance provided for the appointment of a governor by Congress, and Congress appointed General Arthur St. Clair, who established his headquarters and organized the territory at Marietta on July 9, 1788. Counties were organized and county seats were located at centers of population before any of the five states were admitted to the Union. These counties, with their dates of organization, and county seats were as follows: Washington County, July 27, 1788, Marietta; Hamilton County, January 2, 1790, Cincinnati; Wayne County, Michigan, August 15, 1796, Detroit; Adams County, July 10, 1797, Manchester; Jefferson County, July 29, 1797, Steubenville; Ross County, August 20, 1797, Chillicothe; Trumbull County, July 10, 1800, Warren; Clermont County, December 6, 1800, Williamsburg; Fairfield County, Decem-

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ber 9, 1800, New Lancaster; and Belmont County, September 7, 1801, St. Clairsville.

The Ordinance of 1787 provided that, as soon as there should be 5000 free male inhabitants in a district they would be entitled to elect a legislature and this happened in Cincinnati in 1799. William Henry Harrison was chosen as the delegate to Congress. General St. Clair remained in authority as Governor of the territory until 1802, and on March 3, 1803, having attained the necessary 60,000 free inhabitants, Ohio was admitted as a state to the Union. When Trumbull County was established, on July 10, 1800, it comprised the entire tract of the Connecticut Western Reserve, and there was an obvious complication in having one state own a county in another state which was about to be established. The President of the United States was authorized by an Act of Congress, in April, 1800, to convey to Connecticut all the right, title, and interest of the United States to the soil of the Western Reserve on condition that Connecticut would renounce all claim to jurisdiction in the region within eight months thereafter. This agreement was made and fulfilled, with the Governor of Connecticut ceding juridicial rights to the United States on May 30, 1800.

The State of Connecticut had apparently anticipated this transaction, because its legislature in 1786 provided for a survey of the Western Reserve into townships and appointed a committee to sell the tract. In May, 1793, the legislature appointed a committee of eight, one from each county of Connecticut, to sell all of the Reserve except the five ranges set off at the west end to compensate those who had suffered loss by fire, a tract since known as the Firelands. The Bass Islands were included in these Western Reserve lands, but not in the Firelands, although the adjacent area of mainland is part of the Firelands tract.

The original Trumbull County, comprising the entire Western Reserve, was divided by partition into lesser units, until the area now consists of eleven whole counties and parts of two others. Huron County was formed on February 7, 1809, and organized on January 31, 1815. It comprised the entire 500,000 acres of Firelands, and extended from the 41st parallel (which is still the southern boundary of Huron County) northward to Lake Erie, until 1838 when the north part was separated to form Erie County. Before Huron County was formed, the Bass Islands were considered part of the township with which they had been drawn, (later, Avon township, in Lorain County), but they formed part of Huron County until 1840.

Ottawa County was established by an Act of the Ohio General

Assembly on March 12, 1840. It united the north part of Sandusky and Erie Counties, and the eastern part of Lucas County, including all of the Bass Islands and Kelley's Island, but in 1845 Kelley's Island was transferred back to Erie County. Within Ottawa County, the Bass Islands were part of Van Rensselaer township until 1860 when the township of Put-in-Bay was organized, and this township still consists of the three Bass Islands, plus the lesser islands of Sugar, Rattlesnake, Green, Ballast, and Gibraltar.

The islanders have exerted little influence upon the large affairs of the nation, state, or even county, but they have operated the governments of their township and village as units of the larger systems. Ottawa County is linked with Lucas County to form the Ninth Congressional District, and the city of Toledo, in Lucas County, exerts a controlling influence in all congressional elections. In the township there are four wards. The Village of Put-in-Bay is the First Ward, the rural area of South Bass Island is the Second Ward, Middle Bass Island is the Third Ward, and North Bass Island is the Fourth Ward. There are three township trustees, of whom one is elected every second year, and it has usually happened that the Board consists of one member from each island, but the clerk is always from Put-in-Bay, where the records are kept. Both wards on South Bass Island vote in the Village Hall, though with separate officials, and the ballots are transported from all of the islands to the Election Board in Port Clinton.

The Village of Put-in-Bay elects its mayor, clerk, treasurer, five council members, and three members of a Board of Public Affairs. The mayor usually serves also as the Justice of the Peace, though other incumbents have sometimes been elected to that position. The candidates to office in recent elections have been agreed upon by both parties in order to get any one at all to serve for small compensation in these positions of considerable responsibility. The mayor and clerk each receive \$375 and the treasurer \$125 salary per year for conducting the village business of about \$10,000 per year.

There is one local committeeman for each party, but there is very little patronage available for these men to bestow on party regulars. The election officials receive compensation for their services, and some labor has to be hired to maintain the island roads, docks, cemeteries, parks, and water system. Party regulars sell car licenses and hunting and fishing licenses to collect the fees for issuing them. The State Division of Conservation maintains labor payrolls at its South Bass Island State Park and at its fish hatchery. The postmastership has been passed back and forth

between parties, and similar changes have been made in the representatives of the U. S. Customs and Immigration Office. The U. S. National Park Service employs a local custodian and several other people to maintain and operate the Perry Monument.

The only islander to hold county office was John Stone, who served as a County Commissioner in 1866, 1869-70, 71, 72, 73, and 74.

CHAPTER VI

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Philip Vroman was elected in 1844 to serve as School Director on South Bass Island, in Van Rensalaer Township. On November 20, 1855, DeRivera sold one-fourth of an acre to the School Board for schooling purposes only, and a school was built. The township of Put-in-Bay was organized in 1860, and in April, 1833, the school district was established, with South Bass Island as Subdistrict No. 1, Middle Bass Island as Subdistrict No. 2, and North Bass Island as Subdistrict No. 3. The District Board had authority over all three subdistricts, but there were also subdistrict school directors. The numbers of the subdistricts for Middle and North Bass Islands were reversed to coincide with the road district numbers, but South Bass Island remained No. 1.

The Board of Directors met each spring and fall regularly, and special meetings were called to consider pressing matters. At each meeting, a chairman and a clerk were elected by the members present, and the Board was kept at full membership by general elections. Whenever funds were needed to build new schoolhouses, the Board determined the amount needed, called for an election to get the voters' authorization to issue bonds, decided upon tax levies to raise specified amounts against predetermined taxable property, and notified the assessors to make the assessments and collections. When claims or bills were presented to the Board, they were approved, if just, for payment by the Township Treasurer. Beginning in 1872, the members of the Board were bonded after being sworn into office. The members of the Board frequently advanced their personal funds for special needs, like new buildings, and were repaid out of tax levies.

In the 1860's there were separate tax levies for tuition funds and for schoolhouse funds, and these funds were apportioned among the three subdistricts according to their respective numbers of scholars. Teachers were hired for two winter months until 1885 when they were hired for two spring months, two fall months, and five winter months. In 1891 the contracts were issued for eight months and in 1892 for nine months, though the lower grades were held for only seven months until 1899, and after that all contracts were for nine-month terms.

In April, 1863, the Board voted to sell the old schoolhouse on South Bass Island to the highest bidder and to levy a tax to raise \$500 to build a new schoolhouse. This must have been built prior to September, 1865, because at that time P. Vroman held a note for \$400 which he had advanced for building the schoolhouse. This second schoolhouse was probably the small frame building which was later sold to Mrs. Voss and moved to its present location, II-29, for use as a summer house. (Plate II.)

On South Bass Island, subdistrict No. 1 was authorized on November 3, 1866, to hold school during the coming winter in the premises of Mr. Harmes on East Point. On April 17, 1869, subdistrict No. 4 was authorized to rent a proper room for holding summer school. Later in 1869, the Board paid Wyman Dodge for a lot on East Point, and they also paid the costs of a temporary schoolhouse, 16x24 feet, which he had erected on the lot.

On July 20, 1871, the Directors of subdistrict No. 4 were authorized to "dispose of the present schoolhouse to best advantage and to apply the proceeds toward the building of a proposed new schoolhouse". On September 18, 1871, they were authorized to borrow \$550 to apply toward payment of the schoolhouse "now erecting in said district".

On South Bass Island the population grew rapidly in the decade after 1860. On June 21, 1869, the Subdistrict No. 1 was authorized to secure the basement of the church "for to keep a graded school in". On March 20, 1872, decision was reached to enlarge the schoolhouse. A tax levy of 8 mills was decided upon and voted for at the ensuing election, and on December 14, 1872, the Board released the Committee appointed to accept the School Building in District No. 1.

The Board of Education met on April 17, 1880, to organize the Special School District of Put-in-Bay (the Village of Put-in-Bay was incorporated in 1877). On April 16, 1881, the deeds to the schoolhouses were transferred from the Township District to the Special District. This included the previous subdistricts 1 and 4, and brought the East Point school into common management with the School on the Hill.

On August 31, 1891, a motion was passed to change the school into a graded school and to make Mr. J. C. Oldt the principal for the coming year under the direction of the board. The curriculum was extended to include high school courses, and the first class, of one member, was graduated in 1895.

The retention of the pupils over a longer period made more room necessary, and on October 16, 1901, contractor James Thorne

was paid for constructing an addition to the central school building. The Board received a high school certificate and had it framed in 1903.

The records of the pupils at the East Point School were kept separate from those at the central school until 1902 when they were kept together. In 1904 the Board asked for bids for the transportation of the children of East Point families to and from the schoolhouse on the hill, and from 1905 through 1917 George Gascoyne was given an annual contract to furnish this transportation.

On February 16, 1915, the Board sold the East Point schoolhouse to E. Benning for \$300 and gave him a one-year lease on the lot to enable him to remove the building. Prior to June 15, 1917, Benning had sold the building to the Lay Bros. Company, and on August 1, 1919, the Clerk was directed to bill the Lay Bros., for rental of \$10 per month until the place was cleared. The structure was dismantled and rebuilt by Henry or Ed Keimer near the limekiln at the south end, where it is used as a twine shed.

The Board of Education for the Put-in-Bay district resolved on March 29, 1918, "to further the project of a new school building and to bring same early to the people for a vote on a bond issue". The bond issue was voted on June 17, 1919, and on June 20, Mr. Granville E. Scott, Norwalk, Ohio, was hired as architect and as supervisor of construction at 5% of contract costs. On June 27, a bond issue of \$25,000 was voted and, after rejection by the State Industrial Commission, was advertised and sold to the Commercial National Bank of Sandusky. The first bond became due and payable June 1, 1921, and one matured each year thereafter.

On September 26, 1919, the bid of John Feick for \$23,300 for the complete job was accepted, the work to be completed before August 1, 1920.

Lots in the village were agreed upon as the site of the new building, and on March 24, 1920, the Board paid Mr. Tyler \$1,100 for his lots, while on June 9, 1920, they paid Mrs. Wm. Fuchs \$300 for her lots.

On December 15, 1919, the Board accepted the bid of the Commercial National Bank for \$5,000 bonds at par plus accrued interest. The funds were needed to complete the wiring, heating, and plumbing in the new building. (Fig. 6.)

On July 15, 1921, the Board authorized the President and Clerk to proceed with the sale of the old school building and grounds at public auction on September first, the funds derived to be used solely for school purposes. On September 2, 1921, John Feick

bought the old school property for \$2500. It is now Fred Cooper's garage.

The first State aid, a sum of \$508.20, was received on December 23, 1922, a further item of \$500 was received January 7, 1924, another of \$600 on March 3, 1924, and another item of \$1,000 was received on May 23, 1924.

On September 30, 1927, the Clerk reported that the schoolhouse lot on East Point had been divided and deeded to the owners of the



FIG. 6—The School House of the South Bass Island special district.

adjacent land, each of whom, the Grams and the Ruhs, paid \$25 for the property.

On September 24, 1926, the Board decided to charge \$12 per month tuition for any high school pupil entering from any school district outside of Put-in-Bay. On July 22, 1927, they received \$42 tuition for Victor McNeely from the North Bass Board of Education.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The first graduating class of the Put-in-Bay High School received its diploma in 1895, and there have been 191 graduates in the period extending from that date through 1944. Of these, 62 have gone on for further schooling, as follows:

- 17 have attended the Ohio State University
- 4 have attended the Miami University at Oxford, Ohio
- 4 have attended the Bowling Green State University

1 has attended the Ohio University at Athens, Ohio
 13 have attended the Sandusky Business College
 1 has attended the Cleveland Business College
 2 have attended the Tiffin Business College
 2 have attended a School of Cosmetology
 12 have studied nursing, most of them in Sandusky and Toledo
 1 has attended Dennison College and the University of Pittsburgh
 1 has attended the Case School of Applied Science
 1 has attended the Hillsdale College
 2 have attended the Baldwin-Wallace College at Berea, Ohio
 1 has attended the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio

No information has been compiled as to graduation or degrees obtained.

PUT-IN-BAY SCHOOL — NUMBER OF PUPILS

School Year	GRADE												Total All Grade
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1901...	25	4	23	11	18	5	12	20	12	9	10	6	155
1902...	13	11	9	24	9	18	6	13	11	8	5	4	131
1903...	11	9	11	11	14	9	14	4	7	9	5	4	108
1904...	13	4	9	12	14	11	11	13	10	7	9	5	118
1905...	12	9	4	10	16	7	11	11	10	3	6	8	107
1906...	11	7	8	6	13	12	6	13	7	7	4	6	100
1907...	16	12	5	9	6	12	9	12	7	4	7	2	101
1908...	23	5	12	10	6	8	8	14	7	7	4	5	109
1909...	11	7	6	10	6	7	4	11	3	5	6	3	79
1910...	10	8	6	6	10	6	7	4	7	3	4	5	76
1911...	6	5	7	5	6	11	6	5	2	2	4	2	61
1912...	12	4	6	8	5	5	11	5	5	2	2	3	68
1913...	14	7	5	5	8	5	6	12	4	6	2	2	76
1928...	13	11	13	5	9	4	9	9	2	6	2	6	89
1929...	9	11	11	12	6	7	3	10	6	2	5	2	84
1930...	16	9	12	13	12	6	8	2	14	3	2	6	103
1931...	12	10	10	11	11	11	7	9	3	10	3	1	98
1932...	6	13	11	9	10	10	12	5	8	4	7	3	98
1933...	9	9	9	11	10	8	9	9	5	7	4	6	96
1934...	8	11	7	7	12	7	11	8	10	1	6	3	91
1935...	6	7	11	5	7	12	6	10	7	10	1	5	87
1936...	8	5	9	9	5	7	14	8	12	6	5	2	90
1937...	5	7	6	8	10	5	7	11	12	8	4	9	92
1939...	7	6	5	7	7	7	9	6	8	12	5	8	87
1940...	7	6	7	7	7	7	9	6	9	12	5	8	90
1941...	4	7	7	6	7	5	5	10	5	8	11	5	80
1942...	10	6	3	6	6	5	6	4	5	7	6	5	69
1943...	5	10	7	5	6	6	6	5	3	9	5	5	72
1944...	4	4	11	6	4	7	7	5	7	2	5	4	66
1945...	4	4	5	9	7	3	8	7	8	6	4	3	68
1946...	6	4	3	8	9	6	4	8	5	4	5	4	66
1947...	10	4	4	4	7	9	8	5	7	6	4	6	75

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

The island community has usually been affected by the diseases which have been prevalent on the adjacent mainland. In some years there are cases of measles during the mid-winter months, and cases of mumps, scarlet fever, and impetigo have appeared at odd intervals. In 1918 the pandemic influenza caused the local school to close at the same time as schools were being closed elsewhere.

Enteritis affects many people on the island each summer, and this is known to have been true as far back as 1880. The source of contamination is not known, but it appears probable that it may be traced to the water or milk supplies. There is no local dairy, and while some pasteurized milk is brought from Port Clinton throughout the year, untreated milk is used by most residents. All local cows have been tested for tuberculosis and undulant fever, but not regularly or frequently, and the owners of cows consider that the final responsibility rests with the consumer. A few of the consumers safeguard themselves by the simple home pasteurization process of heating the raw milk to 140° and then letting it cool at room temperatures.

The widespread practice of drinking carbonated fluids from the bottles probably limits the spread of trenchmouth and other diseases, but the influx of great numbers of transient visitors during the annual Regatta has been followed by many cases of trenchmouth among the residents, and there is no way of knowing the number of visitors who may develop this or other diseases after leaving the island. The incidence of venereal diseases must be very low if we may judge by the size of families.

One case of rabbit fever is known to have developed by a hunter on South Bass Island. The high population of rats would be a serious health hazard if some returning soldier were to bring back the plague, and serious efforts to reduce the number of rats should be made.

All of the Bass Islands have been served by doctors who have lived and had their offices at Put-in-Bay. Since about 1880, the township has supplied a combined office and residence as part of the compensation to its physicians for practicing their art under

island conditions. The first such structure was built on Lorain Avenue about 1880, and the first physician to use it was Chas. H. J. Linsky. This house burned down in February, 1937, when it was occupied by Dr. Robert Suttle and his daughter, Damaris, and dog. They lost all of their household goods and office equipment, but escaped without harm. A new house-office was built on the lot next to the schoolhouse, and its first tenant, Dr. Roy Evans, occupied it in 1940. (Fig. 7.)



FIG. 7—The township-owned doctor's office at Put-in-Bay.

On December 19, 1893, a village ordinance was passed to establish a Board of Health, and its first members were J. B. Ward, Hugo Steiert, George Baldwin, and Hugo Heim. The board was discontinued about 1920 when a new state law provided for county boards of health and authorized local boards only for communities larger than Put-in-Bay.

There was a drug store at Put-in-Bay from 1908 to 1914, located at II-5-3, owned and operated by Fred Gross. Since 1914, limited supplies of patent medicines have been sold at the general store.

Three of the sixteen physicians who have practiced here have drowned in Lake Erie. Dr. Linsky drowned March 30, 1882, between Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island. Dr. Geist and nurse Silvia Edith Schultz were drowned on February 17, 1923, when their car dropped through the ice near Green Island. Dr. Edam, with his wife, Noretta Elson Edam, and their two children, George,

aged three, and Barbara, aged two, were drowned on February 14, 1940, when their closed car fell through the ice near Middle Bass Island.

From 1904 to 1917 there were two physicians practicing here. Dr. Hessell was the resident doctor in 1904 when Dr. Parker B. Robinson moved in. Robinson stayed at the Park Hotel and practiced from there while having a house built at 11-5-17. He moved to Toledo in the fall of 1917, and died there on March 21, 1932. Hessell, Robinson, and Sears were active in community affairs, and all three served on the school board while they were residing here.

Mrs. De la Roy Webster (Ellen M. Dodge before marriage) was a physician. While her husband was spending some time in California, she attended the University of Michigan and graduated in medicine and then became a practitioner. She discontinued practice, and she professed Christian Science before she died.

CHAPTER VIII

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES AND THE DISPOSAL OF WASTES

Domestic Water Supplies

The early settlers used lake water for household and barnyard purposes, and their buildings were located near the shoreline to shorten the hauling distance. A few of them built on sites away from the shore but close to caves with water in them. Most of the island houses were equipped with cisterns to catch the roof drainage of soft water, and when the cisterns "went dry" late each summer, they were refilled with lake water. This laborious task involved driving a wagon down Reibel's lane (or some other lane), into the lake, dipping water with a long-handled wooden pail into a tank or barrels, then transferring the water to the cisterns. At a later date, windmills were used to boost water from the lake and from caves up into tanks to provide a gravity flow into the buildings.

The bedrock is close to the surface on South Bass Island, and the soil is so shallow that wells cannot be dug on most of the farms. There were wells dug at I-36, III-1, III-2, and III-17, but elsewhere the necessary wells had to be drilled.

About 1885, John Robinson and John Mapus, from Clyde, Ohio, brought their drilling rig to the island, and they put down wells at I-17, II-10A7, and at II-14A. Their rig consisted of some bits which were activated by an eccentric wheel. The wheel raised and lowered the bits as it was turned by an old blind white horse, going around and around.

Some other off-islanders brought in a rig for drilling "core" wells, but the wells were hard to put down and expensive. They put down the well at II-19, and the islanders kept samples of the solid core for souvenirs. Their rig consisted of a hollow tube drill and steel shot, and many of the shot were lost in the crevices in the rock.

A steam operated rig, with solid bits, was brought to South Bass Island about 1910 by Giltenmeister, of Bellevue, and Roy Webster worked for him, then Roy bought a new rig at Lima and drilled many wells. It continued in service, owned by Wilbur Dodge, until November, 1944.

A gasoline-powered drilling rig was imported about 1930 to put down some wells on Gibraltar Island, and in 1944, Manahan, of Oak Harbor, used a similar rig to drill about a dozen wells on the island.

The drilled wells vary greatly in depth, because the driller attempts to get below the area of crevices where lake water would pollute the supply, down into lower fissures where the water is harder but safer. The deepest well is 188 feet, drilled by Roy Webster on his own lot, at II-24A, and it yielded only sulphur water. The well on Oak Point also yields only sulphur water. Although a few old, heavy, gasoline-powered pumps, with outside tanks on towers, are still set up, the modern electric, pressure-tank pumps are in general service outside of the village limits on the island.

Within the Village of Put-in-Bay, a public water supply system was installed in 1910. The intake pipe line and pump house are on the southeast shore of the island, opposite the harbor, at the shore end of II-10C. When the intake pipe was first laid, it ended inside of a rock ledge, but this was blasted out and the pipeline was extended outwards to more open water. The first water mains were wooden ones and they leaked, so they were replaced with iron pipes.

The water is automatically chlorinated in the pump house, pushed up into the water tank in the village park in which there is a sand filter, and supplied by force of gravity throughout the corporation. The extension main into the "Shore Villas" subdivision on East Point was put through after 1913, when the low area at the narrows had been filled for the Perry Monument. At the other end of the village, the water main stops at the corporation limits by Miller's Boat Livery, but a privately-owned pipeline was connected on to it there by Arthur Smith to carry water around Square Harbor to Oak Point, and houses along its route are tapped onto it.

The Disposal of Wastes

The early residents of South Bass Island made use of outdoor privies for depositing their human wastes, but when houses were built around the harbor and water systems were installed, pipe lines were laid to carry the waste products out into the water. In 1908, the village awarded a contract for construction of a sewerage system, and the system then established is still functioning. It consists of two trunk lines, one running from the village limits at the churches down into the Bay beside Doller's dock, and the other following Lorain Avenue, past the park rest room, into the Bay near the village dock. Both lines pour raw sewage into the Bay

where the summer visitors park their boats and swim, but the one which receives the products of the park rest room pollutes the Bay more effectively than the other.

Most of the houses on the harbor waterfront also pour their untreated wastes directly into the Bay, without benefit of septic tanks, but on Hatchery Bay every property has been equipped with a septic tank. Along the west shore of Peach Point several of the cottages are now equipped with septic tanks, but many others still lack this facility. Most households elsewhere on the island still use outdoor toilets, and only a few of them are supplied with quicklime. At II-14A, the effluent of the septic tank has been carried down through a hole in the bedrock, but no one sends raw sewage down into caves. The caves have water basins which are believed to be connected directly with the lake, because their levels vary with the lake level, so that pollution is possible if not probable. The marvel is that these sources of contamination have not been visited by a carrier of typhoid.

No way has been devised or applied for treating the sewage of the village and for keeping the Bay as free as possible of contamination, and no organized effort has been made to replace all privies with chemical toilets or with flush toilets and septic tanks. The public toilets are not adequate to meet the needs of the many summer visitors to the island, and additional ones are needed at those places where transients linger for prolonged periods to swim, fish, or picnic, and now disregard the rules of sanitation and decency, as at the end of the road on East Point, and at the State Fish Hatchery.

There is no garbage disposal system on South Bass Island, and no prospects of getting one. The permanent residents have individual techniques for getting rid of their kitchen wastes. Some people throw these wastes into the lake in the summer, and put them out on the ice in the winter, while other people bury theirs in the gardens or feed their garbage to their chickens. Most of the summer folks throw their garbage into the lake, but some just heave it out of their car into the woods.

For many years the islanders have disposed of their tin cans and other junk by dumping it in the seclusion of the Victory woods, and the resultant midden heaps are now disturbing to look at or to think about. Some junk is still being dumped in these woods, but since about 1940 many of the permanent residents have been accumulating their rubbish all winter and then adding it to the scow loads which the Miller Boat Livery takes out to dump into the lake during the open season.

In 1946 the Village Council bought a 10-acre tract and arranged to have trenches opened for burial of rubbish of the villagers, but no provision has been made for the use of this facility by the other islanders. In 1947 orders were received from the Army Engineers to cease dumping rubbish in the lake.

CHAPTER IX

FIRES AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The very early growth of the community was associated with a quick prosperity which involved an influx of visitors to buy the commodities produced on the islands. Hotels were essential to supply accommodations for these visitors, and big frame hotels were built and operated. The cycles of variation in community prosperity have been associated directly with the availability of ample housing for visitors, showing increased prosperity with the establishment and operation of hotels, and declining welfare with the elimination of such facilities. Fire has been the cause of most of the sudden declines in community welfare.

The large frame first Put-in-Bay House, facing the Village Park, occupied the entire block from Lorain Avenue to the Stone Road, and across the street was the frame Bing House. On August 3, 1878, both of these hotels burned to the ground, leaving the island seriously lacking in accommodations for visitors.

The second Put-in-Bay House, built in 1883 on the site of the first, was razed by fire in 1909. The large Victory Hotel, built in 1892, burned to the ground on August 14, 1919. The three-story Conlen Cottage suffered a severe fire on September 14, 1923, but was rebuilt later. The large frame Commodore Hotel burned down August 23, 1932.

Other structures than hotels also have burned down, to the detriment of the community. On December 31, 1887, the cellars of the Put-in-Bay Wine Company were destroyed by fire; on July 3, 1914, Fox's dock buildings burned; on May 30, 1914, the first State Fish Hatchery was razed; in October, 1922, the steam ferry "Arrow" burned at dock here; in October, 1929, the Casino at Perry's Cave burned down; and numerous houses, barns, and smaller buildings have been destroyed by fire.

On February 13, 1882, the village established a fire department by ordinance, and George Gascoyne was elected the first chief on April 9, 1883. A hand-operated water pump was purchased for use of the fire-fighters, and this continued in operation until June 20, 1918, when it was succeeded by a Ford chemical wagon. The big "pumper" was bought about 1921, and a new Ford chassis was bought in 1933 to carry the chemical outfit. These two motor outfits, together with a first-aid kit which includes an inhalator oxygen

set, are housed in the Town Hall in 1945, and a siren in the tower of the Town Hall is sounded whenever a fire is reported.

The apparatus is manned by the Volunteer Fireman's organization, and every able-bodied man on the island is considered subject to call for service. The town carries insurance coverage for one hundred men with a company which has made a specialty of insuring volunteer firemen. The local group is affiliated with the Northwestern Ohio Volunteer Fireman's Association and has sent delegates to attend the annual conventions, but has never sent along its equipment to enter the contests staged at such times for best trained company, or best first-aiders, or best stream of water. The community could not risk having fires while its equipment and firemen were off the island.

The crew consists of a fire chief, foreman, assistant foreman, nozzleman, hose-coupler, truck driver, secretary and treasurer. They hold practices at which they test the hose and equipment at the same time as they increase their skills at handling equipment, and they try to get together in this way twice each spring and twice each fall. The chief submits to the Clerk of the Village Council each year a list of fire calls with estimates of damages and other information.

The fire chief in 1945 is garageman Earl Parker, and Earl keeps the motor equipment in condition. He runs the motors once each week and checks the tires, thus making sure that everything is constantly ready for a "run". Bill McCann, the barber, is foreman, carpenter Erwin Heidle is assistant foreman, boatman Robert Parker is nozzleman, and park caretaker Wilbur Wertenbach is hose-coupler. These men, and many others, drop their work to rush to the fire apparatus whenever the siren sounds, and they make their utmost effort to check all fires. The community expresses its appreciation only by attending the Firemen's Ball in midwinter, knowing that the profits of the party will be well used to help renew the fire-fighting equipment. Many of the summer residents support the fire company by buying tickets to the ball.

The use of fire for any purpose in frame buildings involves hazards which must be regarded seriously on South Bass Island, with its history of a series of destructive fires. Unfortunately, although these fires have greatly influenced the welfare of the community, the reduction of risks in advance of disaster does not seem to have become an established procedure.

CHAPTER X

WARS AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

During the War of 1812, the British troops invaded South Bass Island and seized or destroyed the first crop of wheat ever raised here. It belonged to John Stark Edwards of Warren, Ohio, who served as a Colonel of Militia during the War of 1812.

On September 10, 1813, the fleet of Commodore Perry moved out from the excellent harborage of Put-in-Bay to engage and defeat the British fleet on the lake a few miles northwest of this island. After the battle, they returned to bury the dead of both fleets in the area which is now the village park. This historic battle had great significance in saving the middle west and western part of our land to the young American nation, and the passage of a few decades brought general recognition of this significance. A movement started in 1852 with a big meeting here to commemorate this battle with an appropriate monument, and this movement culminated in 1913 with the dedication of the beautiful, fluted, Doric column. This monument, with its elevator service and observation platform 309 feet above the lake, is operated by the U. S. Department of the Interior and is one of the main attractions for summer visitors to the island region.

At the time of the Civil War, the island community was growing rapidly with an influx of immigrants from Germany. A few of them had become citizens before the war began and were subject to draft for military service, while the late-comers were not yet citizens and therefore not subject to call. Conrad Brookner and Joseph Ruh hired substitutes to go in their places, while Joseph Phillips went as a paid substitute for a draftee from Fremont.

Joseph W. Gray, the owner of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, came here recruiting for the Union Army in 1861-2. He owned a summer home and vineyard on South Bass Island, and so was known to the islanders. Other islanders who served in the Union Army were Daniel W. Lockwood, De La Fevre Webster, De La Torrey Webster, W. D. Pickens, James B. Murray, Milton E. Nelson (died in service at St. Louis on February 18, 1862), De Lancy Holly, Christopher Doller, John Engel, Chris Engel, Smith Harrington, Martin Miller, Johan D. Mahler, Henry Reibel, and Mrs. McMeens. Jay Cooke, of

Sandusky and Philadelphia, who raised the money to pay off the soldiers of the Union Army after Lee's surrender, maintained a summer home on Gibraltar Island from 1865 until he died in 1904. Mrs. McMeens worked as a nurse, without pay, in army hospitals for three years after the death of her husband, Dr. McMeens, and she came here to serve as housekeeper for Jay Cooke.

Civil War veterans of the 7th Ohio Infantry held reunion encampments on Reefy's point of South Bass Island for many years, bringing their families, and two of these families, the Gill and Molyneaux families, have members who have been summer residents here ever since.

The capture of the ferry from Sandusky to the islands in 1864 by some Confederate soldiers who had escaped from the prison camp on Johnson's Island, involved five islanders. These men were aboard the boat when she was captured, and they were compelled to run the boat for the escapees to Malden, near Amherstberg, in Canada. The alarm caused by this escapade led to the formation in December, 1864, of Captain Brown's Company of Militia, consisting of fifty island men. See item 25 in Reference Source Records.

The War with Spain, in 1898, involved few islanders, and did not significantly influence the local community. Joseph Meyer served in the army in Cuba, and Hugo Wagner served in the Navy, and both men returned safely to their homes.

Between wars, a few islanders served in the national military forces. Hugo Wagner saw duty on the S. S. Michigan (later renamed the "Wolverine" when the new battleship "Michigan" was built), and George Linsky was assigned to the Navy lightship "Nantucket". Tommy Dunn served on the "Wolverine" on the Great Lakes for many years. Emil Wiesler served in the Navy at sea, on the "Arkansas".

The first World War involved military service of twenty-one men from South Bass Island. Of these men, one died of influenza at the Great Lakes Training Station, and one died in France. Five others have died since the war ended, three have served in the second World War, five are now living elsewhere, and seven are still in residence here. Only two of them served in the Navy, and two of them were commissioned officers.

The South Bass Islanders who served in World War I were as follows:

- Maurice Arndt, U. S. A. E. F.
- Alvin Benning, U. S. A.
- Arnold Burggraf, U. S. A. E. F.
- Frank Bushong, U. S. A. Lt.
- Howard Doller, U. S. A. Died since 1918

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Rex Downing, U. S. N. Died of influenza at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

Archie Duggan, S. A. T. C. Died since 1918.

Arthur Duggan, S. A. T. C. Now in the U. S. Coast Guard.

Alfred Fuchs, S. A. T. C. Died since 1918.

Erwin Heidle, U. S. A. E. F.

Arthur Kuehner, U. S. A. E. F.

Nathan Ladd, U. S. A. Also in U. S. Navy in World War II.

Jacob Market, U. S. A. E. F.

William Market, U. S. A. E. F.

Carlton Meyer, R. O. T. C. Also in the recent Spanish Revolution.

Harold Parker, U. S. A.

Albert Scheible, U. S. A. E. F. Casualty.

Harold Schiele, U. S. A. E. F. Died since 1918.

Emil Wiesler, U. S. N.

Henry Wiesler, U. S. A.

Carroll B. Williamson, U. S. A. E. F. Capt. Died since 1918.

The American Legion Post No. 542, named the Scheible-Downing Post, was organized in the autumn of 1921 and received its permanent charter in 1933. Its peak membership was in the 1920's, and, with dues of \$5 per year, it was an active, solvent organization. It staged card parties and dances and amateur theatricals and was a force in the community. The post raised funds by popular subscription to place the Legion monument in the village park and later stirred up the demand which led to the placement of the flag pole in front of the Perry Monument.

A number of men who served in World War I while residing elsewhere have come here for more or less prolonged periods of residence and have joined the local post of the Legion while here so that, all told, the membership has listed about sixty men. The membership in 1945 includes all seven resident islanders, plus the following men who served while living elsewhere: Rev. Dominic Cassetta, Dr. Roy Evans, Dr. Thomas H. Langlois, Charles Mitchell, Roy Thompson, Wilbur Wertenbach, and Gordon Barker. Also eligible, but not a member, is Cy Zeminuk, who served in the Russian Army and came to the U. S. after the war. Not eligible, though a veteran of the war, is Max Woischke, who served in the German army until captured by the British. He spent two years in a British prison camp and came here after the war. About 1941 some of the Legion wives formed a Legion Auxiliary.

During the period of World War I, the State of Michigan was voted "dry", and many residents of that state came on excursion steamers to Put-in-Bay, in "wet" Ohio. The island hotels of that time, including the Victory, Commodore, Park, Smith, Bonair, Conlen, and Reibel House, did a land office business, with wild parties the order of the night at the two largest ones. The commun-

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ity found it necessary to keep a police force of six men during that period.

The impact of World War II is essentially similar to that of War I. The summer of 1944 saw a big boom in the resort business, with everything tolerated because of the liberal spending of the visitors. Off-islanders bought and fixed up many dilapidated properties, and the islanders repaired and improved their permanent homes, but there is still no evidence that this prosperity has benefitted the school or churches.

On the front of the Town Hall is a list of all people from the township who have served in War II. This list totals 78 men, of whom 62 are from South Bass Island and 16 from Middle Bass and North Bass Islands. Two of the local boys have died in action up to this date, May 5, 1945. Ralph Sanford, U. S. Army, was killed in action in Europe, while Richard Sampson, U. S. Navy, was lost at sea with his ship. Some island boys are in each branch of the service, and some have participated in all major actions. By the end of 1945 a considerable number of these boys had been released from the military forces, and many of them have returned to the island to stay. During 1946 many of these men joined the American Legion, and most of them joined to form a new post of the Veterans of Foreign War.

*Perry's Victory And International Peace Memorial.**

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument, at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, commemorates the victory of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and his men over the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie September 10, 1813; the Northwestern Campaign of General William Henry Harrison in the War of 1812; and the more than 100 years of peace that followed between the United States and Great Britain.

The memorial reservation consists of 14.25 acres on the north-erly side of South Bass Island. The Doric column of the monument, rising more than 350 feet above the level of Lake Erie, was constructed between October, 1912 and June, 1915, and the plaques, grounds and retaining walls were completed in 1925, at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000. The Federal Government contributed \$396,164 and the remainder was appropriated by the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky, and Massachusetts. The monument was built under the direction of the Perry's Victory and International Peace Centennial Commission, composed of representatives of the

* Copied Verbatim from an advertising folder published by the U. S. National Park Service.

Federal Government and States which contributed funds. By Act of Congress dated June 2, 1936, the memorial was placed under the administration of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The monument is constructed of pink Milford granite. The Doric column of the monument itself is 352 feet high and 45 feet in diameter at the base. Its cap serves as an observation platform and resting place for a small penthouse, surmounting which is a bronze urn 20 feet wide, 23 feet high, and weighing 11 tons, from which a beam of light is thrown straight upward. The observation platform can accommodate 300 people at one time, and the scene from this point is one of great beauty; on a clear day it affords a view of the spot, 6 miles due west, on which Perry won his great victory. The monument rises from the center of a plaza, 154 feet by 159 feet, at the four corners of which are huge stone urns, and a lower plaza, 75 feet wide and 183 feet long. The column is hollow and is fitted with both stairs and elevator. Entrance to the column and to the rotunda of the memorial is gained by four doors marking the diameters of the column and facing the four cardinal points of the compass. On the walls of the rotunda are bronze plaques commemorating historical events associated with the memorial. In a crypt beneath the rotunda lie the remains of the three British and three American officers killed in the Battle of Lake Erie.

The National Park Service representative in charge of the memorial was Custodian William Schnoor until 1946, assisted by a staff of guides. A souvenir stand dispenses mementos and literature of the memorial. Special arrangements for large groups of visitors may be made by addressing the "Custodian".

The U. S. Light House

The Green Island Light House was established prior to that on South Bass Island. The exact date has not been determined, but it is known that there was a frame building there which burned down on the night of January 1, 1862. On that night the temperature dropped from above freezing (it rained) to below zero, and the South Bass Islanders could not cross for several days to find out what happened to Caretaker Drake and his family. They were safe and were found huddled under blankets in an outhouse. A stone light house was built there in 1864, and it was used to house the keeper until 1925. At that time an automatic light was installed and placed under the direction of the keeper on South Bass Island. A new metal outside tower and automatic light were installed in 1941.

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The South Bass Island Light House was built in 1892, and when building it, the construction crew rebuilt the dock by the lime kiln to facilitate the handling of materials. (Fig. 8.)

The administrators of lighthouses may regard the South Bass Island Light as an easy one to tend, probably because of its proximity to the village and lack of isolation. In any case, they have stationed there men who have been near the age for retirement.



FIG. 8--The Light House on South Bass Island.

Captain Gordon was an old man with a grown family, a veteran of the War of 1898. When he died, he was succeeded by Captain LaRose, who retired after one year here. Robert Jones followed LaRose, and Jones had been long in the light house service. When Jones was transferred from here May 15, 1944, upon his own request, he was followed by Kenneth Nestor, a young coast guardsman.

CHAPTER XI

THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

The transfer of title to the lands of the northeastern part of Ohio from the State of Connecticut to the Connecticut Land Company was discussed at some length in earlier pages. That part of the Western Reserve tract which included South Bass Island was obtained from the Connecticut Land Company in 1807 by Pierpont Edwards, transferred by him in 1810 to John Stark Edwards and Ogden Edwards, acquired at sheriff's sale in 1836 by Alfred P. Edwards, deeded to Alice Glover Edwards in 1853, and sold by her in 1854 to José DeRivera St. Jurgo.

The Western Reserve tract comprised 3,840,000 acres, and the Connecticut Land Company paid \$1,200,000 for it in 1798. The value per acre at that time, therefore, was 31¢, and the 1382 acres of South Bass Island were sold then for \$428.42. Their value increased until Ogden Edwards was able to borrow about \$5000, using them as security, in 1831. Alfred P. Edwards paid about \$7000 for South Bass, Middle Bass, and Sugar Islands, in 1836, a valuation of \$3.37 per acre for 2063 acres. Alice Edwards received a total payment of \$44,000 for the same acreage, a value of \$21.32 per acre. DeRivera sold Middle Bass and Sugar Islands at early dates for unrecorded sums, and his receipts for the sale of land on South Bass Island cannot readily be computed.

South Bass Island was surveyed by Ernst Franck, the Ottawa County Surveyor, beginning in the autumn of 1858, and continuing until the autumn of 1862. Franck divided the island into three tracts, listed here as I, II, and III (Plate II), and it is probable that he subdivided one of these tracts each autumn of the years indicated. Alfred P. Edwards had built a dock at each end of a lane across the island, one in the harbor and the other in Stone's Cove, so as to be able to land at one or the other, regardless of the weather. This lane was designated a County Road by the Surveyor, and the two tracts on the main part of the island were described as being North of the County Road, and South of the County Road, respectively. Most of the lots were approximately ten acres in area, and DeRivera actively promoted the sale of these lots to settlers.

Philip Vroman, who had been in residence on the island since

1844, bought the first land from DeRivera on South Bass Island on November 25, 1859. He paid \$3000 for a farm of 93 acres, a price of \$31 per acre, and then he also actively encouraged settlement. During the period which extended from 1861 through 1878 he resold his farm in nineteen transactions, for a total of \$31,279.75, an average price of \$336.34 per acre.

As the community center developed around the harbor the land values thereabouts increased rapidly. In 1864, Caspar Schraidt paid \$21,000 for an 18 acre tract near the business center, a price of \$1166 per acre, and in 1865 Jay Cooke paid \$500 per acre for Gibraltar Island. In 1869 Henry Beebe paid \$20,000 for the two acre lot, and its rooming house, adjacent to the ferry dock, and vineyard values mounted beyond all reason. The census of 1860 shows that crops were raised on South Bass Island by Philip and Simon Vroman, Karl Ruh, Louis Harmes, George Hinger, Thomas Dyer, Luther Nelson, and Joseph Shortliff, and all of these men bought the farms they had cleared as soon as DeRivera was ready to sell. The successes of these early settlers in raising grapes led to an influx of other settlers, so that the population had grown to the surprising total of 1148 by 1870 on the three Bass Islands. John Brown, Jr., became a resident of South Bass Island in 1862, and he was appointed Deputy County Surveyor to meet the needs of this concentration of people by subdividing the large lots into smaller ones.

Although the plat of Franck's original survey of East Point was made in 1862 it was not recorded until 1895, but Joseph Tyler's East Point Lot 13 was a recorded subdivision on July 22, 1870, and III-11 was a recorded subdivision in 1871. Caspar Schraidt subdivided part of his Lot II-7, and had the Plat recorded on March 15, 1871, as the South Shore series of 84 lots. Amander Moore began selling fragments of his Lot II-4, in 1862, and had a Plat of his Subdivision recorded in 1874. Valentine Doller sold small parts of his Lot I-1 in 1874, and that same year saw the subdivision of William Gibbons' Lots I-6, and 7. The Village of Put-in-Bay was incorporated in 1877, and in 1880 there were 381 people living within its corporate limits.

Coincident with the promotion of the Victory Hotel, which opened its doors on July 4, 1892, the land near the hotel was subdivided into 475 city-sized lots. These were sold mostly to city people, and the investment was a poor one, because the area is still undeveloped in 1946. In 1894, Clinton Idlor recorded his Plat for a subdivision of his Lot I-8, and G. Wait must have subdivided his Lot II-2 at about the same time.

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Louis Schiele and John Hollway bought the Peach Point properties of the Forest City Ice Company in 1902, razed the ice-storage sheds, and subdivided the land into 57 cottage sites. They sold the first lot in 1904, and had the Plat recorded in 1906. The Put-in-Bay Development Company began its development of resort interests in 1906, and the splurge they made revived interest in cottage sites. In 1907 E. J. Dodge had his frontage on Square Harbor divided into ten lots which he recorded as the Oak Point Subdivision.

The Put-in-Bay Resort Company established their Pond Lot Subdivision in 1913, and in 1915 they sold lots on their west shore Subdivision A. At about the same time they took over the remnants of Tyler's allotment and renamed it "Shore Villas". In 1916, O. L. Miller had a plat recorded for his subdivision of Lots II-40 and 41, which he named "The Cedars", facing on Stone's Cove. Antone Proch's Subdivision of land behind the west shore road was recorded in 1918. Lot II-10 was subdivided into 56 lots; Lot III-6 was subdivided, and one lot bears a cottage in 1946.

The value per acre of land on South Bass Island in 1946 is difficult to establish. During the depression years some lands became tax delinquent and were sold for taxes, but the purchase of many farms by a Sandusky wine company has set some new values, and perhaps \$100 per acre would be a fair estimate. Cottage lots along the west shore road have sold for an average of \$300 for fifty feet of frontage, and \$150 for fifty feet back from the shoreline on the road.

In 1942, the assessed valuation of the village property was \$496,880, and of the rural part of the island was \$454,430. The tax rate within the village was 17.20, and in the rural area, it was 16.00.

CHAPTER XII

THE ICE INDUSTRY

For many years, the business of filling the numerous ice houses on South Bass Island was a recurrent winter activity which provided employment for many permanent residents as well as helped to meet the needs of summer residents and visitors. The ice business began in 1878, when Valentine Doller, Andrew Wehrle, Sr., and George Gascoyne bought the end of Peach Point for a site for an ice house. In 1879, Gascoyne bought pine lumber at Saginaw, Michigan, and had it brought down on the schooner "Louise", towed by Doller's tug, the "Sallie". A storage shed was built on Peach Point in that same season, and filled to its capacity of 15,000 tons of ice in the winter of 1879-80, and the following summer this ice was put on the Cleveland market, transferred there on the tow barge, "Tosco".

The Forest City Ice Company, of Cleveland, bought out this competitor in 1883, and expanded operations at Put-in-Bay by enlarging their storage capacity. They finally had a series of five long gable-roofed sheds and a large square shed, a stable for their horses, and a mess-hall for their men. The mess-hall, run by Milton and Kate Dodge, stood about where Papworth's cottage now stands, while the large square building stood where the State Fish Hatchery is located.

The houses were filled usually from a field outside of Gibraltar Island, although one year they were filled from inside of the island, in the Bay, though it was necessary to cut a channel through the bar in order to do so. Channels were opened from the cutting field to the elevator at the ice house, and men pushed the blocks of floating ice with pike poles through the channels towards the house. If the distance was great, several men were stationed along the channel, and each received the ice at one end, pushed it the length of his beat, and delivered it to the next man.

A two-chain elevator, with big links and connecting cleats, came up from under water to carry two chunks of ice before each cleat up an incline to a passage-way between buildings from which the ice was spilled down lateral skids into the buildings being filled. The chain described a big circuit, passing over a cogwheel where steam power was applied, then back to the bay end of the elevator.

The local trade was handled largely by Frank Rittman from a big ice house on the outer end of Doller's dock and later by Wm. Miller and Harry Jones from another big ice house which was located on the point now occupied by Miller's Boat Livery. However, the biggest local users of ice each had their own ice houses, including the following: Beebe House, Park Hotel, Crescent Hotel, Put-in-Bay House, Schiele and Hollway, Andrew Schiele (across the street from Parker's Garage), Herbster's Hotel (on the empty corner next to Nate Ladd's house), Deisler (back of the bathing beach), Parker (near the back corner of their old wine cellar, now Hershberger's), the Hotel Victory, Jay Cooke (on Gibraltar Island, where the pump house stands), George W. Gardner (on Ballast Island), and Brown (on the ex-dock by the lime kiln at the south end). Frank Miller built a big ice house when he ran a pond-net fishery and used ice to freeze herring, and he sold out to Miller and Jones.

Although the local ice houses were filled at first by the individual owners, during later years they were all filled by two crews. When the Forest City Ice Company discontinued operations here about 1900, some of the men who worked at the Forest City Ice Company joined the two crews putting ice into the other houses. One crew was hired by Sahnke Johannsen, Tom Alexander, and Lucas Meyer, and the other crew was hired by William Miller, who permitted no drinking. Miller's crew was sober and loyal, partly because he paid full time for the end days when the men only put in part time.

Miller's field crew included Tom Smith, Louis Foye, Ed. Miller, John Esselbach, Charley Prahl, Alf. Brown, and Ted Phillips, while his house crew included Otto Herbster, Nate Ladd, Emil Wiesler, Gene Garrigan, Henry Miller, and Joe Anton. Jim Duff drove his team to pull ice up the chute while Mick Arndt ran the "follower". From four and one-half to five days were required to fill the Miller and Jones ice house.

Other ice houses were smaller and were equipped with a big wooden pulley wheel which had a smaller spool on the same shaft, the whole strung up next to the projecting gable of the ice house. The tongs were on the rope which wound around the smaller spool while the pull rope was on the big wheel and pulling was easy. Adam Heidle made all of the big pulley wheels.

The ice was stacked on edge, and Amos Hitchcock adzed the upper surface of a layer smooth before adding another layer. Later in the season, sawdust (brought here in bulk on the steamer "Mayflower") was used as a blanket cover and was chinked between

chunks. (They once used baled shavings in place of sawdust.) One year, wave action opened a corner of the Miller and Jones ice house, making a vent, and air erosion melted out a lot of ice before it was stopped. Old ice sometimes melted together into a solid pack which was hard to get out, but new ice was sometimes stacked over the unused old ice. Hard ice kept longer and was colder.

Ice was cut when from 12 to 14 inches thick, though thinner ice was used in seasons when ice did not get thicker than 6 inches. Thicker than 14 inches was too thick to handle well.

The field was laid out with a tapeline into squares of twenty-two inches and it was then marked by a horse-drawn machine. This machine had a blade to cut a groove, and a guide-wheel on an arm which threw over from one side to the other to stay in the last-made groove as the horse, hand-led, went up and back. This was followed by the "plow", a machine with two blades placed tandem to deepen the furrow but not to cut through into the water, and this machine was pulled by two horses. Then came the actual sawing, a back-breaking job of bending up and down. Chris Miller was the sawyer for the Forest City Ice Company, and Tom Smith sawed for Bill Miller.

About 1895, Frank Miller installed an ammonia plant for mechanical refrigeration in his fish house, and this marked the beginning of the end of the local ice business. The Forest City Ice Company discontinued operations in this region about 1900, and in 1902 they sold their Peach Point property to Louis Schiele and John Hollway who razed the buildings.

CHAPTER XIII

THE WINE INDUSTRY

The U. S. Census of 1860 lists no grapes or wine among the crops produced in 1859 on the Bass Island, but in 1880 every land user was raising grapes and many of them made wine. The production of grapes has been a form of land use which has supported large families on small areas, with the local farm size varying from five to twenty acres. The long frost-free season is very favorable to grape production, but there are other climatic hazards. Hail storms have ruined at least part of the local crops in 1915, 1934, 1936, and 1937. An excess of rainfall in early autumn of some years has caused the expansion of the grapes, with skin-cracking and fermentation, and mildew is bad in some seasons.

Catawbas form a large share of the grapes produced, with Concords next in importance, while a few Niagaras, Isabellas, and Ives are produced also. Catawba grapes are produced at a rate of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre, while the Niagaras average from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 tons, and the other kinds yield less. The grapes are sold by the bushel, barrel, or ton. Catawbas average 50 pounds per bushel, 175 pounds per barrel, with 40 bushels or 11 barrels to the ton.

The grapevines are spaced about four feet apart in rows which are seven feet apart, and at this rate there are nearly 1000 vines on an acre. The vineyard rows are planted at right angles to the lake shore, with furrows between rows which drain downslope to the lake. The soil in vineyards is kept bare and top soil is lost down furrow with run-off to the lake. Burggraf stopped this loss by putting the acre next to the shore in sod.

The fields are "plowed off" in early spring and hoed through May and June, then are "laid by". Grapes are harvested in late September and early October and then the soil is "plowed-on" to protect the roots against freezing during the winter. A heavy snow blanket in the vineyard is a blessing in protecting the vines from freezing. The vines are pruned back in February, and in the spring fertilizer is added. Arny Burggraf adds a large cupful of commercial fertilizer, broadcasted to each side of each vine. He maintains two horses and adds the barnyard manure to about four acres, rotating the acreage treated. One of the Burggraf vineyards

contains vines that have been in place for 80 years. The Fritz Ingold place has vines planted in 1864 which are still in production.

When the vines were first planted, wire was not available for stringing the vines, and there were four stakes driven around each vine to which the vine was tied. This was not very satisfactory as the vines drooped, and some of the old vines have loops back into the ground. The local traditions of methods of raising grapes include two tyings, the first, of old stalks, with willow withes (pollarded willows may be seen on every farm) and a second tying



FIG. 9—Island women use willow withes for tying grapevines to wires.

with rye straw. The rye is grown between rows in some vineyards and in open patches in others. Tying, as well as harvesting, is a family and community concern, participated in by women, children, and men. (Fig. 9.)

In the very early days each grape grower either had his own press or arranged to press his grapes with a neighbor's press. A press building involved a cellar for storage of the juice in casks, and the press was on the floor above so the juice flowed down into the casks (Fig. 10). Many of the press buildings were made of stone or grout, while the rest were largely board and batten frame structures. There were buildings of this kind on the farms of Lorenz Miller, Karl Ruh, V. Doller, George Whitney, Gustav Heineman, Ed. Keimer, Alf. Parker, Charley Eckert, Ephraim Foster, S. W. B. McLean, Emil Ruh, Andrew Schiele, Charles Riedling, José DeRivera, and probably a few more. The Whitney and Doller

Winery, Karl Ruh, Charles Riedling, and Matt Burggraf, Sr., had distilleries for making brandy. At first only a Federal license was required for a "still", but later a State license also was needed, and presently all distillation of wine to make brandy was discontinued.

These early wine makers had their own select customers to whom they sold their products by the keg or gallon or "fifth" bottle, and the islands quickly became noted for the quality of their fine wines. That they then attempted to maintain the quality of the



FIG. 10—The grape-press is above the casks in the cellar.

local wines is attested by the record in the Mayor's docket of an arrest and conviction of an islander for selling a compounded wine which was labeled falsely "Sweet Catawba".

Many excursions from adjacent communities had their incentive in these wines. Sandusky became a wine center also but was dependent upon island grapes. In 1887, the Sweet Valley Wine Company was incorporated in Sandusky, and by 1910 it had a capital stock of \$150,000. The Engels and Krudwig Company was started in 1894, and in 1910 had \$100,000 of stock. The Schmidt Junior Brothers' Wine Company commenced business in September 1902, with a capital stock of \$300,000, and the Hummell Wine Company was capitalized for \$100,000. Land values had jumped to as much as \$1,000 per acre with the grape boom and with the resort boom which came during the same period. However, the island grape growers and wine makers were at a disadvantage when

competing with the powerful Sandusky wineries which bought their grapes.

In 1906 a cooperative of grape growers was formed, incorporated as the Bass Islands Vineyard Company, organized by a Mr. Wilder, and with all stock owned by the islanders, for the more advantageous sale of local grapes. Growers were guaranteed minimum prices of \$40 per ton for Concords and \$60 per ton for Catawba grapes, and for several years the growers received these prices plus dividends on their stock in the company. However, this did not persist because presently the ambition developed to be big enough to compete with the Welch Company, Virginia Dare, etc., and stock was sold to outsiders. An \$80,000 winery was built on Campbell Street in Sandusky and a debt was incurred. Thereafter the dividends dwindled until finally the company sold out, and the cooperative was ended. Culver, of Military Academy fame, bought the Sandusky winery and resold it to the Meier Wine Company of Cincinnati.

While marketing their grapes individually, the producers were paid up to \$100 per ton for Catawbas during the good years 1921-22-23-24, but thereafter prices dropped and hard times began. The Prohibition Amendment destroyed the market for wines, and the bigger wine companies either locked up their cellars to await the repeal of the amendment or shifted to the production and sale of sacramental wines and non-fermented juices. The island grape growers faced real difficulty in disposing of enough grapes to pay the costs of operations, and some of them found some market by selling to bootleggers. Brookners shipped 30-pound baskets with hickory handles, with weights marked on each basket, for eating purposes to Detroit markets.

During these years, the abandonment of vineyards began, with the land growing up in sumac or maple or cedar, while the press buildings became dilapidated, and many of the owners removed to mainland to earn their sustenance otherwise. The grapes still produced by Burggraf, Duff, Foye, Heineman, Market, Miller, Vroman, Webster, and Conlen were sold to certain wine producers at very low prices. The principal buyers during these years were the American Wine Company and the Lenke Wine Company of Toledo, the Buckeye Wine Company, the Hummel Company of Sandusky, and the Meier Wine Company of Cincinnati.

The repeal of the Volstead Amendment brought an immediate demand for beer and whiskey but little demand for wine, and the wine makers accumulated reserve supplies from grapes bought at low prices. The three principal buyers of island grapes from

about 1938 to date have been the Meier Wine Company, the E. & K. Wine Company, and George Lonz. Roy Webster, Norman Heine-man, and Fred Cooper have made a retail market here among visitors to the island for all of the wine which they have produced from their own grapes and from a few more grapes bought from other local growers.

The three outside buyers combined to set the prices which they would pay for grapes, and the low prices they paid were partly responsible for discontinuance of more vineyards. Carl Ruh quit raising grapes in the thirties, the Herman Ruh vineyards were discontinued when Herman died, and the Matt Ingold place went to "pot" in 1940. Gene Ingold sold out to a non-producer in 1943, and Henry Leschied had poor health and no help and let his vineyard go in 1943. (The E. & K. Company restored Leschied's vineyards in 1945).

War conditions forced restrictions on the production and sale of hard liquors in 1943 and the wine reserves were promptly sold. The three big buyers found then that new supplies of grapes were not available because of the discontinuance of grape production on many of the island vineyards, and they have taken steps to insure supplies by producing their own.

In 1943 and 1944, the Meier Company dominated grape production on North Bass Island, George Lonz on Middle Bass Island, and the Engels and Krudwig Company on South Bass Island. The E. & K. Company has purchased old vineyards, totaling about 300 acres in extent in 1946, and has hired islanders to put the fields into grapevines. The early winter of 1943-44 was open and the ground lacked snow and the fields were all burned over, while the thin soil, needing humus, would have benefited greatly by having the heavy turf plowed under. The pheasants and rabbits, driven out by fire, have been slaughtered for island tables. Men have been given winter employment, but there is not enough local labor to operate these new vineyards, and outside labor probably will have to be brought in. Absentee owners are likely to be more concerned with immediate profits on their investment than with the welfare of the community, and the community cannot thrive without proper use of its land and water resources.

About 2,000 posts arrived for use in the E. & K. vineyard in the fall of 1943 and in the early spring of 1944, 35,000 more posts were brought in on scows. Two hundred thousand grape vines have been ordered, and grape growing has become big business.

Although the production and sale of wines have provided the basis for one of the major island industries throughout most of the

community history, the demands of many summer visitors for beer and stronger beverages have been met. The Kaebler and Stang Brewing Company of Sandusky, had the building erected at II-1 soon after the fire of 1878, and they operated a saloon in it until 1884 when they sold it to Louis Schiele, and Schiele continued the saloon. He sold his business to J. B. Ward shortly before 1900, and at that time Ward had the only liquor license on South Bass Island. Wm. Rehberg similarly held the only license on Middle Bass Island at the same time. Ward sold his license to John Brick, and Brick had the building erected at II-7 to house his saloon.

Kaspar Schraidt ran a Weingarten which was continued after his death by his widow, and there was once a Biergarten in connection with the Beebe Hotel. When the "Big Four" had the Colonial built, in 1906, they wanted to operate a saloon in one end of it and so they needed to get the one liquor license permitted on the Island, then owned by John Brick. They threatened to have the island voted "dry" unless he would sell to them, and he capitulated, accepting the price of \$7,000 for his saloon, a price considered too low by most islanders.

During the period of National Prohibition (1918-1933) the islands were so situated as to be useful in bootlegging liquor, and stories are freely told of the great quantities of liquor which were brought from Pelee Island across the international boundary line to South Bass Island.

One operator towed the same scow load of coal back and forth between South Bass and Pelee many times, with liquor aboard on each return trip. Another operator hauled liquor over the ice and had a truckload of liquor en route from Pelee when it broke down. It stood out on the ice, with the liquor just covered with a tarpaulin, for about a week before its owner could return to have his truck fixed. One cottage owner had a big spotlight on his lake frontage to guide his bootleg boat into shore. He narrowly escaped a revenue cutter and later for other reasons, cleared out of the island, selling his cottage by telegraph. At least one islander had a light flasher system in his house to guide boatloads of liquor in to shore.

Although the repeal of Prohibition again permitted legal sale of wines, the principal demand of summer transients has been for beer and whiskey, and quantities of these commodities have been brought to the island for summer sale. The bars at such joints as the Crescent, at Jim's Place, at the Roundhouse, at Tony's Place, and at Roy's Castle Inn have done big business of this kind. Considerable supplies of whiskey are brought in by air ferry to meet the individual needs of the permanent residents during the winter months.

CHAPTER XIV

THE FISHERIES INDUSTRY

The islanders have commercialized the supply of fishes in Lake Erie during almost the entire life span of the community, using the fishes for both food and sport. Certain species always have been regarded only from the standpoint of human food and others only from the game standpoint, while some which were once



FIG. 11.—A Put-in-Bay chartered fishing boat, off Starve Island.

food fishes have now become game fishes (Fig. 11). In this last group are the black bass, muskellunge, and northern pike, and there is a growing tendency now among sports fishermen to prevent commercial fishing for white bass and yellow pickerel. Other species, including sturgeon, suckers, mullett, and carp were discarded by the commercial fishermen in the early days as being coarse fish, unfit for use as human food, but these species are now forming a sizeable share of the annual catch and people have learned that they are quite palatable when properly prepared. In addition to the food and sport fish species, the lake produces great quantities of shiners, chubs, and other small species; and some of these species are now widely used as bait by sports fishermen.

The earliest commercial fishermen around the Bass Islands were land owners who operated vineyards as well as fished. They used pound nets, and they operated independently, each with his own frontage where he kept his rig and scows and stake driver, and each "made up" his own twine. They imported tamarac stakes from somewhere "up lake". In this group were Philip Vroman and his sons, George Bickford and his sons, George Hinger and his sons, Alfred Parker and his sons, Lorenzo Miller and his sons, Martin Miller and his son Bill, James Morrison and his sons, Elliot Dodge

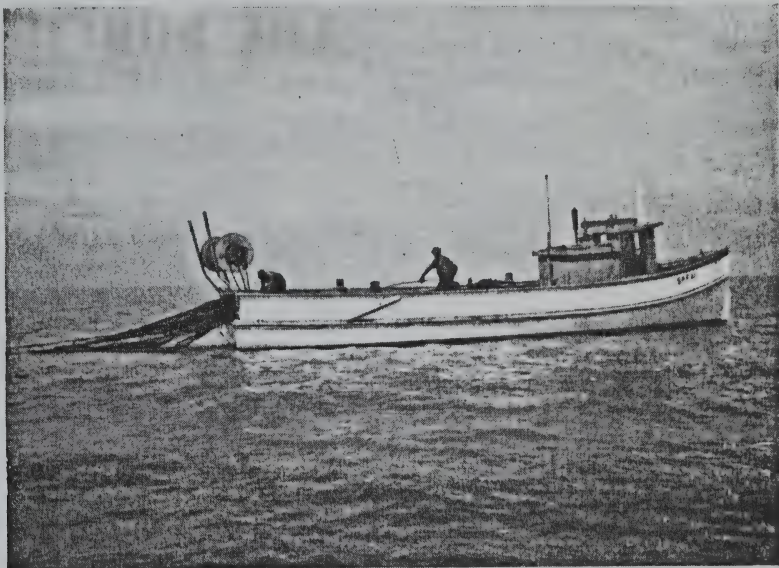


FIG. 12—Island fishermen set trap-nets in Lake Erie.

and his sons, Anton Ruh and his sons, Valentine Doller, and John Stone. On Middle Bass Island, Wm. Rehberg and Lutes had rigs, and on North Bass Island, Simon Fox and his sons and the Cummings family were fishermen. Wm. Axtell and John Stone worked with Simon Fox during some years.

Gill nets came into use for herring, and a few men caught catfish on set lines baited with white grubs. Capt. Hugo Stiert and Capt. E. J. Dodge operated steamer gill net rigs, while smaller outfits were run by Wm. Miller, Fred Miller, and Ralph Jones. The Morrison family bought East Sister Island in 1888 and fished over there for bass which they kept alive in pots until they had enough to bring a sailboat load to Put-in-Bay.

About 1890 trap nets were invented and the Morrisons had the first of them around here, some "twelve-footers" which they operated around East Sister (Fig. 12). Johnny Darr of Catawba

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Island had the first big series of trap nets, and as trap nets proved to be efficient fishing gear a few operators became prosperous very quickly. These bigger operators developed freezer plants and shipping facilities and had their own wholesale and retail markets in the big cities of the East. Among these may be listed the Lay Brothers Fish Company of Sandusky, the Post Company, the Bell and Bentz Company of Port Clinton, and the Booth Company. The Booth Company, with branches around all of the Great Lakes, established two branches on Lake Erie, one at Sandusky and the other at Cleveland.

The smaller independent operators sold their fish to these big companies, and when they needed to get new boats or other major items of equipment they found that they could borrow money from the big companies and repay it with shares of their catch. Most of them shortly lost their independence, lost even their status as share croppers, and became laborers on seasonal payrolls of the big companies.

In 1916, a group of these independent small operators organized the United Fisheries Company to pool their resources and compete with the big companies as a "producers cooperative". This group consisted of Frank and Stewart Fox of North Bass Island, Elmer Fisher of Kelley's Island, Charles Micheler of South Bass and Catawba, and George Richter and Schlossen of Sandusky. Micheler acquired controlling interest in the United Fisheries Company and then over-expanded for new boats and docks, freezer plants, and a retail store in New York City. According to local reports the cooperative was a failure from the time Micheler got into control as its President and General Manager, but the fishermen partners tried to string along with Micheler to avoid losses. The United Fisheries Company went broke in 1937, and the fishermen lost their investment. One of them is reported to have lost about \$7,000.

In 1945, the Fox Brothers are still operating their small independent trap-net fishery at North Bass, Bill Kuemmel has a trap-net fishery and Charley Snyder has a gill-net rig at Middle Bass, Charley Mahler and Johnny Nissen run small gill-net rigs at South Bass, Elfers has a trap-net fishery at Kelley's Island, and the Lay Brothers of Sandusky maintain a crew on South Bass with two boats and a twine shanty and complete rig for trap-netting. Otto Herbster sometimes sets a string of gill nets from a row boat off South Bass.

Until 1867, all fish were salted, but freezing began then, and the first herring were frozen in 1869. This became a major industry at once, and it grew rapidly when gill nets came into use in 1888

to catch herring. Pond nets, and later the trap nets, caught whitefish, herring, pickerel, saugers, sheephead, and suckers. On South Bass Island, Frank Miller ran a pond-net fishery and had a big ice house, and he used ice to freeze herring. Later he installed a freezer plant in one end of his ice house. George Bickford had an ice house by his fish house on the beach of the Reibel House, probably also for freezing herring. The Post Fish Company built a large twine shed on land leased from Bill Miller and when they quit business, he acquired the big building which he now uses as a storage shed for his boats. (In 1943 the Ohio fishermen caught 85% of the American catch from Lake Erie, and the trap nets caught 95% of the total Ohio catch.)

Because of lack of knowledge about the needs of fishes, little has been done which has actually promoted their welfare. The State of Ohio and the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries have operated fish hatcheries at Put-in-Bay for many years; and the gesture was made in all sincerity, but the futility of this procedure is now apparent. Unfortunately, the islanders came to regard the fish hatcheries as an industry, in which the local youths might find life-long careers.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries acquired title to an acre of land on Peach Point from the Forest City Ice Company in 1889. The Ohio State Legislature passed an act authorizing the U. S. Government to acquire this property for the expressed purpose of conducting fish cultural operations, and that autumn the construction of the hatchery building was begun. Mr. J. P. Stranahan of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was appointed the first superintendent, and in 1890 the hatching of eggs of whitefish and yellow pickerel was begun. Stranahan was a pioneer in evolving methods of propagation, and interest in his work led to the meeting at Put-in-Bay in 1893 of the American Fisheries Society. In 1900 Stranahan was transferred to another federal fish hatchery, in Georgia, and Seth Downing succeeded him as superintendent of this place.

In 1907 the Ohio Division of Fish and Game bought land adjacent to the federal hatchery and had John Feick build a frame hatchery building with a lay-out similar to that of the other establishment. The state hatchery was planned to hatch herring and blue pike eggs to supplement the operations of the federal hatchery, but these plans could not be realized because of the difficulties of getting the desired kinds of spawn. The state hatchery burned down on May 30, 1914, and was replaced at once by the brick building which is still in operation.

In order to utilize the state hatchery, the jars were filled with the eggs of the same species that were being hatched in the federal hatchery, and in order to get spawn, the state and federal employees competed in the prices they paid to the fishermen for spawn. Finally, the rival superintendents entered into a gentleman's agreement whereby each obtained all of the spawn from particular fishing areas or fields. This division of fields resulted in the federal hatchery's getting most of the yellow pickerel spawn, while the state hatchery got most of the whitefish spawn. This kept two establishments operating to perform the same job that one alone had formerly done.

The elimination of the needless expense of maintaining and operating duplicating establishments began in 1934, when all eggs were handled at the state hatchery, and the federal boat and personnel were included in the activities. In 1940, the officials of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries offered to help arrange the transfer of the entire hatchery property to the Ohio State University for use as a fisheries research station, and this was done by Act of Congress that year. The state fish hatchery continues to hatch eggs supplied by commercial fishermen of the same two species, whitefish and yellow pickerel.

CHAPTER XV

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

The earliest homes on South Bass Island were made of logs, and they were located near the low shorelines for convenience in getting onto and off of the island as well as for easy access to the lake water supply. The first settler, Henry Hyde, is believed to have lived at II-30E, possibly in the log house which still stands there. A French Canadian squatter, Ben Napier, lived in a log house at I-1, and when V. Doller bought that lot, the log building became the first island store and postoffice. Philip Vroman lived in a log house when he first settled on the island, in 1844. In the early part of the decade which began in 1860, Karl Ruh built a log house at III-9B, Lorenz Miller built one at III-10, close to the shore, Matt Burgraf built one at III-4, and George Bickford built one at II-27B.

The later houses were built with hewn timber for joists, studding, and rafters, and gravel or grout was poured to a depth of two or three feet between the studding poles for insulation and for protection against rats. This procedure was followed when the old houses were built at I-9K, II-5-9, II-4C, II-10A3, II-10A7, and at II-47, and the early school building which is now at II-29C had the same type of construction.

In July, 1862, DeLafayette Webster moved his family from Elyria to South Bass Island, and being a stone mason, started to build stone houses. His sons had learned the same trade, and his brother Aaron, who moved here in 1867, was also a mason. They worked with Pete Bernette, erecting a lime kiln at III-19A, and they burned rock to make their own lime mortar. They put up a number of grout houses, using gravel and mortar, and some of their work may still be seen. They built a two-story grout house for DeLafayette Webster at III-19A, on the site of the present Frohman Lodge, which has been enlarged around it. They built the stone house adjacent to where Jim Rudy lives, in 1944, and double house of stone at III-19B, where Ruth Burggraf lives. They built also, a small grout house at I-9-13, and this has been enclosed in the larger frame house which is now the home of Fred Cooper.

In 1865, Alfred Parker, an immigrant from England, came to

South Bass Island with his wife and four children (two more were born here). He also was a stone mason, and he built the stone wine cellar on II-19 which Milton Hershberger now uses as storage shed for spare parts for his airplane. He probably built the barn for George Hinger on II-24A (now Roy Websters), and he may also have built the stone house and wine cellar for James Foster on II-32A (now Wilson's). He doubtless worked with Owen Brown who is reported to have built the lime kiln at II-24 and the grout house near it (razed in 1942), at the south end of the island.

There are only a few brick structures on South Bass Island, and the necessity of transporting all such materials from mainland to the island explains their scarcity. The town hall, the store buildings of Schnoor and Fuchs at II-4B, of Rittman at I-2, and of Oelschlager at II-5-1, the facade of Doller's Store at I-1, and the newer part of Doller's house, the Emil Wiesler home at II-17B, the Breither home at III-7, and the small telephone exchange at II-4-1 complete the list in 1945.

The construction of all-frame buildings followed the establishment of steam ferry service to land. The frame materials for the house of Jay Cooke were on board the steamer "Island Queen" when she was captured by Confederate soldiers in 1865. The frame back part of the Alois Niele house at II-17B (now Emil Wiesler's home) was dismantled in Sandusky and re-assembled here. The frame building at II-5, was taken apart in Toledo and brought here to be rebuilt. It proved to be too big for its lot and overhangs the adjacent street. The domed structure known as the Round House was built in Toledo for assembly here.

While the early builders met their needs for materials with timber and stones and lime produced on the island, the recent builders have had to bring in supplies from the mainland. During the lumber shortage of 1946, there were a few buildings erected of concrete blocks. There are also problems, special to the island, of labor and tools and equipment, which are best met by experience. A comparatively small number of builders have done most of the construction on the island, although a considerable number of the houses and cottages were built by the owners for their own use.

William Gibbons built the boat house on Gibraltar Island in 1865, a house for Lorenz Muller at III-2, one for M. D. Holly at III-3B in 1867, a house for himself before 1869 at I-7-7, and the lower two floors of the Bayview Hotel at I-7-8 (Fig. 13). Gascoyne and Montgomery built the Beebe House at II-2B5 in 1869, and George Gascoyne remained to construct many houses and other buildings, including the U. S. Fish Hatchery, the Oak Point House,

the Town Hall, and the Monroe House. Adam Heidle worked for Gascoyne and later, with his sons Oscar and Erwin, erected many cottages and houses. Henry Keimer also has built many places here, and Alfred Schnurr of Sandusky has built several houses. John Feick and his son, Charles, built the State Fish Hatchery and other structures. The Bertsch Brothers erected several houses, and so did Gus Fettel.

The difficulties and expenses attendant upon importation to the island of building materials have led frequently to construction of



FIG. 13—The Bayview Hotel overlooks the harbor at Put-in-Bay.

new buildings with old materials. Usually the islander who wishes to build a shed or barn solicits the privilege of razing some unused and dilapidated structure and when this has been obtained the beneficiary does the work and transports the materials to clear the site. Mick Arndt has razed a number of buildings and besides building a house he maintains a stockpile of salvaged materials and sells small items from his lumber yard. It is regarded as a lamentable loss when salvaged materials are moved away from the island.

Although nearly all off-islanders think of the docks as part of the island, as a matter of fact, they are the product of some person's enterprise and ingenuity. The community maintains one city dock, in 1945, where the cost of installation and maintenance has been borne by the taxpayers, but all other docks are privately owned and maintained. They represent sizeable investments, and the owners derive revenue by charging dockage fees to boats which pause to take on or put off passengers or freight or which lie there

for prolonged periods. The amount of the fees is determined by the amount of freight or number of passengers handled, or by the length of time the boat lies at dock, or by flat rates for each landing or day of landing, or for the entire season.

All of the small docks and a few of the larger ones are kept for the private use of the owner, and are not commercialized; and these docks, like the commercial ones, require constant repair.

In 1831, John Pierpont, working for Ogden Edwards, built two docks on South Bass Island, one at Stone's Cove (now the State dock) and the other in the harbor (now Doller's dock). About 1870 Owen Brown built a dock near the lime kiln at the south end, and later, L. S. Brown built a dock in the harbor (now the ferry dock). The dock by the lime kiln has disintegrated and all but disappeared, and the dock at Stone's Cove was disintegrating rapidly until the State bought the property in 1938 and had the dock rebuilt. Except in the harbor, docks do not hold up well, because of the battering they must take from the waves and ice.

Most of the docks have been built of square cribs, made of heavy timbers which are held together by iron pins at the corners. These cribs are placed in the water, resting on bottom, and are filled with rocks to hold them down. When the cribs are filled with round hardheads, they roll and crowd, and the wood gives, and the bottom timber goes out, and then the stones roll out at the bottom. Flat stones, carefully stacked horizontally, are more stable and last longer. The dock platform rests on these cribs.

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CHAPTER XVI

THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

The large white frame house which Alfred P. Edwards had built about 1836, facing the park, was bought by Joseph W. Gray about 1861, and operated as a rooming house. Gray's widow, Mrs. Mary R. Gray, sold ten acres here in 1864 to Henry B. West, and it must be presumed that the title was not clear because West paid DeRivera \$2565 for the same tract in 1866. In 1866, West took Capt. Amander Moore for his partner, and Moore and West operated the Manor House as the first Put-in-Bay House; Captain Moore sold his interest in the hotel to Dr. Elder, and the firm of West and Elder made extensive improvements on the property. Colonel Sweeney purchased the interests of Dr. Elder, and the firm name became West and Sweeney. A large addition was built on to the hotel during the winter of 1870-71, raising its capacity to 800 guests. In 1871, the hotel was sold to the firm of Cooke and Burgher, of Cincinnati, and the management thereafter was known as Sweeney, West, and Company. The hotel burned to the ground on August 31, 1878.

On the lot at II-2B5 (the site of the bicycle stand of 1943), in 1866, there was a five-roomed grout house, one floor high, with one room attached to the other in series, like a shoe-string. This was the home of a family named Cooper, and they "took in" a few roomers and boarders. During the winter of 1866-67, they enlarged it and in 1867, with a partner named Decker, they ran a hotel, called the "Island Home". In the fall of 1867, the building was again enlarged and called the "Perry House". Cooper and Decker sold out in the spring of 1869 to Henry Beebe who enlarged and renamed the place the "Beebe House". In 1910, it was leased by Wm. H. Reinhart, who refurnished it and renamed it the "Commodore Hotel". It was owned by the Schlitz Brewing Company when it burned in August, 1931.

About 1870, John Gibbons built the lower two floors of the Bayview House. His estate sold it to Jack Day in 1906, and Day had it moved closer to the bay front, to its present location at I-7-8. Day also had John Feick add a third floor on to it, and he has run it ever since. (Fig. 13.)

A second Put-in-Bay House was built in 1883 and operated by Valentine Doller. It stood about in the center of the square block, in back of the present location of the Schnoor and Fuchs store. It burned down on September 3, 1909.

Before 1874, the Bing House was built on the site of the present Town Hall and Schiele Block. The Bing House and Chris Doller's home both burned down on August 3, 1878, when the first Put-in-Bay House burned.

In 1884, the Reibel House was built, and it has been operated since by Reibel and until 1945 by his niece, Louisa Bohl. It is on the Baseline Road about a mile from the village, at II-15.

The Gill House was built at II-5-2 between 1880 and 1885 and was operated for years by Fred and Celia Gill. In recent years it has been known as the Bon Air, and in 1945 as the Smith Hotel.

The Park Hotel was built in the winter of 1887-88 at II-5-19. Round House Smith moved his house back on the lot in order to locate the Park Hotel where it still stands. It was operated in 1903 by S. M. Johannsen, and from about 1906 until April 1, 1944, by Lucas Meyer, when it was bought by Merrill Shaver of Toledo. Shaver sold to Wm. Gruenke in October, 1944.

Herman Herbster ran a saloon and a restaurant on the corner at II-4-1 and 2. After his death, the Herbster building was turned 90° and moved to the back of the lot, and the Perry Hotel was built up around and in front of it for Alvin Merkley, about 1905. This frame building was not kept up, and it was razed in 1937.

The Hunker Hotel was built in 1871, and in 1879 had accommodations for 150 guests. Its name was changed to the Ward House, then to the Detroit House, and it is now known as the Crescent Hotel. In 1903 it was run by S. J. Campbell. During recent years it has belonged to E. J. Meyer.

The construction of the Victory Hotel was begun in 1889 and completed in time for the grand opening on July fourth, 1892. The project was promoted by Mr. J. K. Tillotson, and it was operated under the original organization until 1897. Mr. E. O. Fallis, a Toledo architect, traded it in 1897 to Mr. L. K. Parks, an attorney in Toledo, and Parks operated it alone until 1903, when he went into partnership with two other Toledoans, J. W. Ryan and C. W. Ryan. It was operated afterwards by the Ryans at a loss, and they sold it to Mr. P. W. McCreary. When McCreary died, in 1907, the hotel came under the control of the Arbuckle Ryan Company, and it was closed for several years. The E. M. F. Auto Company of Detroit bought it in 1917 and spent about \$100,000 to refurbish it. It was sold in 1918 to a Chicago firm which was headed by

Henry J. Stoops, who placed his nephew, Ben Mowry, in charge. In 1919, its manager was James A. Stokes. It burned to the ground on August 14th, 1919, and it was not insured at the time.

The Hotel Victory was a large, frame structure, built for catering to conventions. It had facilities for accommodating 2000 people per day, and during its later years there were not sufficient demands for this kind of facilities. During the period of E. M. Flanders ownership, an attempt was made to cater to lesser groups, and Flanders ran ferry service from Port Clinton, using a boat named the "Victory". Flanders also built the open air swimming pool which may still be seen amid the ruins, since it did not burn, though, of course, it is now dilapidated almost beyond recognition.

While the Hotel Victory was in process of construction, Tillotson was selling lots for cottage sites in the area now known as Victory Woods. On March 26, 1891, he grouped the lot buyers by cities, as follows: Cincinnati 31, Columbus 24, Toledo 23, Sandusky 11, Cleveland 9, Chicago 9, Springfield 5, St. Louis 4, Fostoria 4, Detroit 4, Pittsburgh 3, Dayton 1, thirteen towns one each, and Put-in-Bay 5. The local buyers were Andrew Wehrle, A. Wehrle, Jr., Henry Burggraf, F. W. Burggraf, and Oelschlager and Baer.

Tillotson also organized a company for the purpose of furnishing water and electric transportation to the buyers of lots near the new hotel. (Discussed under "Transportation" in this manuscript.)

In 1896, the Conlen Cottage was built at II-7 and it was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Conlen until about 1920. It had been enlarged and was a three-storied frame hotel when it burned on September 14, 1923. It was rebuilt as a two-storied building and operated as a summer hotel by Mrs. Conlen until 1940, when it was sold to the Episcopal Boys' Choir.

In the 1890s Julius Wurtz, Sr., had a frame rooming house built at II-7. He sold out to Benjamin Smith who enlarged and improved the place as the "Smith Cottage". His son, Walt, lost the place to a bank and Ralph Morgan rented it from the bank, running it as "Morgan's Hotel" in 1944. The bank sold to Mrs. India Boelcher in October 1944, and it has been rebuilt for operation in 1945, as the "Bashore Hotel".

CHAPTER XVII

THE RETAIL MERCHANDISING INDUSTRY

When Valentine Doller bought the harbor front lot, I-1, in 1859, he quickly established a store in the old log house on the property, and soon thereafter had the first local postoffice in his store. In 1873, Doller built the frame building which housed a saloon on the basement floor, a store and postoffice on the first floor, and a hall on the second floor. In the new building, in 1873, the store was run by Isaac Denoon Jones, but Jones sold out to Clinton Idlor in 1875. In 1876, Idlor took in De Laroy Webster as partner, but in 1892, Idlor's partner was Salter, and in 1884 the partner was Henry Foye. In 1892, V. Doller was running his own store again, and after Doller's death, in 1901, it was run by his nephew, William Haas. In 1943, Haas turned the store over to a grandson of V. Doller's, Rod Miller, but Miller ran the store only one year. The store was reopened in the summer of 1945 by lessee Romer Stoiber.

Miscellaneous items have been sold in concession stands in all of the larger hotels. The first Put-in-Bay House had a store which was operated by the hotel proprietors, Amander Moore and Henry B. West, in 1866.

Engelbert Oelschlager came to Put-in-Bay about 1885 with a peddler's pack. He remained, building a brick store, and operating it as a dry-goods store until his death. His widow carried on the business until her health failed, and it was discontinued in 1937.

David "Benny" Rosenfeld also came to Put-in-Bay with a peddler's pack, about 1888. He later acquired a horse and wagon to transport his load, and finally became a permanent resident, with a small frame shop at II-7. When his shop burned down, he built another frame shop, next to the Town Hall. Later he had this building moved back on the lot to make room for a new brick building on the same site. Finally he sold the store building and site to George Rittman, and relocated near the site of his first shop. He sold all of his stock and was found dead in the back room of his shop on August 22, 1931.

Frank Rittman was a butcher for the Sandusky firm of Dempsey and Spade, and he came here to take charge of their retail meat market on the Doller dock. He bought their Put-in-Bay store on

September 12, 1885, and he passed the business on to his son, George. George bought Rosenfeld's brick store next to the Town Hall and operated a meat shop there. He expanded into the groceries field and passed the business on to his son, Ramon, about 1940.

John Hollway supplied items to the Board of Education in August, 1891, and again in April, 1895. He sold out to Sahnke Johannsen, and in 1913, Johannsen took in Wm. Schnoor as partner. In 1915, Johannsen sold out to Schnoor and Frank Fuchs, though



FIG. 14—The general store of Schnoor & Fuchs handles chain-store foods.

Carl Johannsen retained a fifth interest until later when he sold that also to Schnoor and Fuchs. The original Hollway store was in Anna Doller's house, and it was moved next door into the Schiele Building. In 1913, Johannsen and Schnoor had the brick building built where the general store of Schnoor and Fuchs now meets community needs for groceries, meats, hardware, notions, patent medicine, papers and magazines, and ice cream. (Fig. 14.)

A shoe store and cobbler shop was run by Chris Doller in his building next to the Schiele Block. Lawrence Sherer also ran a cobbler shop in his home at II-5-5. There are two front doorways on this house, one of which once opened into the cobbler shop.

Some Toledo people named Goulden had a small shop built and ran a meat market next door to Rittman's store for about two years. Their shop was Rittman's private garage until it was razed in October, 1945, and replaced by a new concrete-block storage shed.

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Taliaferro ran the only barber shop here for years. Sahnke Johannsen financed Harry Bannister in buying new equipment and setting up a rival shop. After about one year, Bannister sold his shop to Bernard McCann, and when McCann died in 1938, his son, Bill, became the village barber.

George Bickford had an early blacksmith shop in a log building near his home at II-27B. It stood back of the barn of the Reibel House. Charles Hollway, an English immigrant, arrived here before November 14, 1865, and ran a blacksmith shop in the yard in front of his home at II-30G until 1895. George Hallock operated a blacksmith shop in the basement of the house on the hillside at I-9-9. William Kiinzler came here in 1903 to work in the blacksmith shop of Charles Hollway. He opened his own blacksmith shop here in 1904 and has kept up with changing times by including plumbing and automobile repairing. Earl Parker has run a garage service station since about 1930. Fred Brown repaired lawn mowers, sewing machines, and radios until he died in September, 1945.

Andrew Schiele served as the local agent for Protane gas sales and service with his store in the Schiele Building until his death, and since then the business has been half-handled by his sister, Ada May Schiele, while the Peoples Gas Service Company of Lima now has many customers here.

Fuel to heat the local homes is supplied from the mainland. Coal is brought in by Gordon Dodge and the Neuman Boat Company, and fuel oil is handled by the Miller Boat Livery.

There has been an extensive series of business enterprises which have operated only during the summer seasons for the purpose of profiting on the multitudes of transient visitors. Included in this series there have been trinket shops, check rooms, photograph galleries, roller coasters, etc., etc. During recent years Ken and Greta Reynolds have made nameplates of gold wire, and gypsies have told fortunes, and there has been a merry-go-round with blatant music.

About 1908, McKinney brought several Shetland ponies to the island, arriving on the steam ferry "Frank E. Kirby" from Detroit. The ponies were housed in the stable of the Commodore Hotel, and they continued to use those facilities long after the Commodore Hotel burned. McKinney sold out to Hunker, and the ponies were still coming here until 1937, but they stopped when Linker established his bicycle livery in 1938. In 1944 and again in 1945, Linker has brought in eight Shetland ponies and a tented circlepath, where small children are sold rides, but the ponies are not taken out on the roads as formerly.

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There was a museum established in 1864 by A. B. Richmond, facing on the park, in which some of the principal attractions seem to have been relics of John Brown. There were several "stands" in the arcade and in the area behind the Crescent Hotel, and there was a lengthy row of booths on the way toward the bathing beach. The only stands of this nature which have been operating in recent years have been those of Ed Meyer, Otto Schiele, and Otto Herberster, though some of the same sort of trinkets are for sale at the general store of Schnoor and Fuchs.

Hay and straw are largely bought on the mainland by the farmers who need them, but Gordon Dodge retails hay, straw, and chicken feeds and brings these products over by the scow load.

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CHAPTER XVIII

THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Boat Transportation

The problems involved in obtaining transportation from mainland to the islands were met first by individual initiative, then by some measure of cooperative effort, and finally by outside large-scale interests. With the waning of the resort business on the islands, the outside interests have been largely withdrawn, and the transportation needs of the community have reverted to the small business operations of local individuals.

The early settlers came from the eastern states and were obliged to overcome serious transportation problems all along the way in order to get to South Bass Island. When Nathaniel Doan brought his family from Chatham, Connecticut, to Geauga County, Ohio, in 1798, the trip consumed ninety-two days, and Seth Doan, the thirteen year old son, had to help the others when they were sick of the fever and ague. When Seth was 26 years old, in 1811, he traveled on horseback from Warren, Ohio, and crossed to South Bass Island in a hand-propelled small boat.

Another native of Connecticut, John Pierpont, was crossing from South Bass Island toward Sandusky by sailboat in 1836 when the boat was swamped in a squall, and Pierpont, with two associates, were drowned. Philip Vroman was working on a schooner in 1843, and first called at South Bass Island when the schooner landed here, looking for trade. Until about 1850, the freight and ferry service was rendered by two-masted boats and scows. Simon Fox, the Canadian-born early resident of North Bass Island, operated his sloop-rigged boat, the "Amherst", on what has been referred to as the first regular ferry service between Sandusky, the islands, some Canadian ports, and Detroit.

The steam ferry "Arrow" brought a crowd of people from Sandusky in 1852 to Put-in-Bay to celebrate Perry's victory, and in January, 1855, the steamer "Ariel" towed the new hull of the "Island Queen" from Kelley's Island to Sandusky to have her boilers installed.

The "Island Queen" was built in 1854 at Kelly's Island under the direction of Captain George W. Orr. Her keel was 110 feet

long, and was made from an island oak tree. Her beam was 18 feet, and her boilers drove paddle wheels. After getting her boilers installed at Sandusky, Captain Orr took her out in the spring of 1855, and put her on a run from Fremont, Plaster Bed, and other Sandusky Bay ports, to Sandusky, Ottawa City (at the tip of the Catawba peninsula), and the islands. The "Island Queen" towed sailing vessels and scows in and out of Sandusky Bay and up the river to Fremont, but discontinued the river run at the onset of the Civil War. On September 19, 1864, she left Kelly's Island with 30 Kelly Island men who were bound for Toledo to be mustered out of military service. En route, she paused at Middle Bass, tying up beside the "Philo Parsons" at Wehrle's dock. The escaped Confederate soldiers who captured the "Philo Parsons" disembarked everyone from the "Island Queen" and then turned her adrift. She sunk on Chicanola Reef, but was raised at once, and was back in service on September 25. In 1866, she was sold for operation out of Detroit, but in 1867, she was chartered by Walter O. Ashley and put on the run from Detroit to the islands and Sandusky. In 1874, she had become a stone barge at Kelly's Island, and shortly thereafter she was broken up.

The steamer "Philo Parsons" appears to have rendered dependable service to the islands during the 1860s. In 1865, she was bringing mail to the islands three times each week during the open season.

The "Jay Cooke" was built by the J. P. Clark Company, and put in service in 1868. She was captained by John Edwards until 1871, and then by L. B. Goldsmith. She was sold and the new owner renamed her the "City of Sandusky", and she continued in the local ferry service until about 1895.

The side-wheel steamer "Chief Justice Waite" was built in 1874 for the Toledo, Lake Erie and Island Steamboat Company at Trenton, Michigan. She was 210 feet long and had a beam breadth of 48 feet, and she carried a maximum load of 1500 people. She was still in the island ferry service in 1888.

The side-wheel steamer "Alaska" was built in 1878 and operated out of Detroit to the islands and Sandusky by the Ashley and Dustin line until she was dismantled in 1890. She had sleeping and dining facilities for 130 people, and ran regular trips in the late afternoon to lay up at Sandusky, and return to Detroit the following day. Her succession of masters included Captain L. B. Goldsmith, Captain Harriman, and Captain Arthur J. Fox.

The steamer "American Eagle" had a major accident when her boilers blew up on May 20, 1882. She was nearly new at the time,

and she was repaired and continued in the ferry service, but later she burned at dock in Toledo and was then sold and rebuilt in Canada for service elsewhere.

The "Lakeside" was built for use as an ice breaker to replace the "American Eagle", and ferried to Sandusky in the autumn after the "Arrow" stopped running. She was rebuilt and enlarged by lengthening and widening, and then renamed the "Olcott", and after rebuilding she pitched very badly. During the summers, she ran to Lakeside, Catawba, and Port Clinton.

The steamer "Arrow" was built in 1895, and equipped with boilers which had been transferred from the "Jay Cooke". She was about 200 feet long, and had three decks. She was a side-wheel steamer, with a walking beam, and she rendered dependable service from Sandusky to the islands from May, 1896, until she burned at Doller's dock, Put-in-Bay, in October, 1922. Later she was equipped with a crane and operated as a freight barge out of Monroe, Michigan, by the Armentrout Steamship Co.

The side-wheel steamer "Frank E. Kirby" was built in 1890 at the Wyandotte Boat Works, and equipped with the Monitor boilers and the engine from the "Alaska". She had a steel hull, and was the pride of her designer after whom she was named. She ran ferry service from Detroit to the islands, owned by the Ashley and Dustin Company, from September, 1891, until she burned at dock at Ecorse on February 21, 1929.

The screw-driven steamer "Put-in-Bay" was built by the American Shipbuilding Company in 1910 for the Ashley and Dustin Company of Detroit. She has a passenger capacity of 2800, and she has brought excursions from Detroit to the islands every summer, from Decoration Day through Labor Day, from 1911 to the present.

The side-wheel steamer "Andrew Wehrle" was built for Andrew Wehrle of Middle Bass Island, and operated by the owner in the inter-island ferry service for many years. She was later bought by the Cedar Point Company and used only in Sandusky Bay.

The steamer "Visitor" was built at the Detroit Boat Works for Valentine Doller, of Put-in-Bay, and used in the inter-island ferry service for several years. Doller sold her to the U. S. Engineers who sold her to Canadians after changing her power plant twice. Doller also owned and operated the steam tug "Trio" in the inter-island service.

The "J. V. Lutz" was a wooden hull steamer with side wheel drive. She was built in Port Clinton in 1880 for Mr. J. V. Lutz, of Middle Bass Island, and she was operated between the islands

and Port Clinton. She was later sold by Lutz, and the new owners renamed her the "C. B. Wallace".

The steamer "Leroy Brooks" was built out of the steel of the old "City of Toledo" when she was dismantled, for William Rehberg, of Middle Bass Island. Bird Chapman ran the "Leroy Brooks" for Rehberg, while the owner ran another steamboat, the "Ganges". Rehberg maintained his own dock by the Toledo Club grounds on Middle Bass, and used this ferry service to promote his interests on the island.

The steamer "Ina" was owned by Captain E. J. Dodge, of South Bass Island, and used in the inter-island ferry and freight service.

In 1907, John Newman, of Sandusky and Put-in-Bay, began a ferry service from Sandusky to the islands which his sons, Harold and Leonard, have continued to date. Newman's first ferry boat was the "Alert", and later ones included the "Reliance", the "Cupid", the "Messenger", the "Mascot", and the "Commuter". The "Commuter" was built at the Stadium Boat Works, in Cleveland, in 1945, and made her first trip to Put-in-Bay on June 24, 1945. She is an all-steel boat, equipped with a Kallenberg diesel motor, and she is 64 feet long.

The Put-in-Bay Auto Ferry Company was organized in 1923, with all stock owned by residents of the islands. It inaugurated ferry service from the Catawba peninsula by having Newman tow scow-loads of automobiles back and forth between the islands and Catawba Point, and in 1931 the company bought a steamer from Chesapeake Bay for this service. She was renamed the "Erie Isle" and captained by Mr. Stoll until 1943. She was then condemned and sold for junk to Lee Miller who dismantled her to use her hull for a freight scow.

The rocker-arm steamer "Chippewa" was a side-wheeler which had been named the "Pheasant" and operated as a revenue cutter out of Cheboygan, Michigan. After the "Arrow" burned, in 1922, this boat was brought here to replace the "Arrow" on the Sandusky run, which she did until 1942, when she was dismantled and sold for junk, in Sandusky.

One of the early steamers was the "J. K. Secor", screw-driven, and operated out of Port Clinton by Captain Dan Coushaine. Later she was sold to a Canadian, Al. Henning, who fished gill nets with her.

Boats of the Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company called at Put-in-Bay on regular runs for years. At one time they started two boats, one from Toledo and the other from Cleveland, scheduled

so as to meet and pass at Put-in-Bay at about one o'clock in the morning. One of their steamers, the "City of Detroit I" later became the "State of Ohio" which called regularly at Put-in-Bay, and the "City of Detroit II" became the "Goodtime" which ran excursion service from Cleveland to Put-in-Bay regularly until she was condemned in 1941.

The steamer "Alabama", built in 1910 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and used in charter service in Georgian Bay, was bought by a Cleveland company and brought to Lake Erie in the spring of 1945.



FIG. 15—The ferry boat "Mystic Isle," on its run to the islands.

She was put in condition in Toledo, and then placed in the excursion ferry service out of Cleveland, coming to Put-in-Bay three times weekly, and going to Canadian ports on the alternating days. She made her first call at Put-in-Bay on June 19, 1945, and continued until Labor Day. Although she is 20 feet longer than the steamer "Put-in-Bay", her passenger capacity is only 1500, as compared to the 2800 carried by the "Put-in-Bay". This is due to the fact that one of her decks is occupied by 80 staterooms.

To replace the condemned "Erie Isle", the Put-in-Bay Auto Ferry Company increased their capital stock to \$70,000.00 and had a new steel boat built at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The new boat was named the "Mystic Isle" and put in service between the islands and Catawba Point in July, 1943, with Captain Walter J. Drickhamer as Master. (Fig. 15.)

The Miller Boat Livery, of Put-in-Bay, began offering a new transportation service in the 1930s, using a series of small, fast, gasoline-powered boats as water-taxis. During the period of most

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unsatisfactory ferry service from the larger boats, while the old "Erie Isle" was not safe and the new "Mystic Isle" had not been made, this water-taxi service was invaluable to the islanders and visitors, and the Miller Boat Livery prospered. In 1945, Miller's had a new steel-hulled ferry boat built, screw-driven, and diesel-powered, and this became the "South Shore" ferry, placed in service on April 14, 1945.

Sutherland of Lakeside built a few fine sailboats, including the "Fanchon" about 1872 for John Doller and the "Nellie Strong". The islanders staged races with Canadian yachtsmen and as early as 1872 held the "International Regatta" here. This led about 1893 to the annual "Interlake Regatta".

The Morris Heidt Company of New York built a number of fine boats for members of the Toledo Yacht Club. Walter Ladd operated two of them for their owners, the "Hobo" and the "Hazel". The "Thelma" was built for Comm. Huntington, and Richardson had the "Puritana". Guy Chapman cut ten feet out of the length of the "Thelma", then let her sit, without completely rebuilding. She was dismantled by Ernie Miller in the winter of 1943-44.

Air Transportation

The islands have had air ferry service since 1930, rendered by Milton Hersberger, and this air ferry, used without fear by the islanders, has taken the winter isolation factor out of island living.

Hersberger barnstormed for years, and was barnstorming at Sandusky during 1928 and 1929 when he conceived of establishing an island air ferry service. His first plan was to run to the islands from Sandusky, but when he had acquired an airport on South Bass Island he decided to make his headquarters here. He found help in raising funds to buy a small standard open cockpit plane and incorporated as Erie Airways, Inc., and at first his partner, R. N. Anderson, of Washington, D. C., owned controlling interest in the company. The airport here was dedicated November 26, 1930.

Mail service before 1930 had been by ferry during the open season and by ironclad boat and manpower during the balance of the year. The Erie Airways Company was awarded the mail contract as a Star Route, and mail service has been quite dependable. Airplane landing fields were established on Kelly's Island, Middle Bass, and North Bass islands, a private field on Rattlesnake for passenger service on charter, and a field on mainland about three miles east of Port Clinton.

The facilities of the air ferry service have been improved

constantly. The small planes were supplemented by a Ford tri-motor in December, 1936, and a second Ford tri-motor was acquired later. One of these was sold in 1942 and went into service in Little Rock, Arkansas. Hersberger then bought another Ford tri-motor from the Marathon Oil Company, and he now keeps the two licensed and in service. In December, 1944, he bought another Ford tri-motor and had Gill Stoll bring it up from Dallas, Texas. In 1945, he also had two Standards and a small cabin job, all equipped with interchangeable rotary motors. Early in 1947, he operated four Ford tri-motors and had eliminated the small plane. He maintains an aviation mechanic and two or three helpers here at South Bass Island, and Mrs. Thelma Hersberger is bookkeeper and partner.

In 1936, the passenger fare was \$1.50 one way and \$2.00 round trip, providing the return was within 48 hours. In 1944 the fare was \$2.30 one way, or \$3.45 for the round trip, with the fractions for federal tax. There were two regular trips daily, at 8:40 A. M. and 4:00 P. M., with special trips on charter.

Besides carrying the mail and passengers, the air ferry transports considerable freight, moving tons of wine and ice-caught fish throughout the winter and bringing food and all needed supplies to the island communities. Caskets, empty or full, are frequently moved. During the summer months, when the boat ferry renders cheaper service, the air ferry service carries principally mail, though visitors are sometimes taken up for the thrill. The summer passenger service became heavy in 1944 and continued that way in 1945 and 1946.

Transportation on the Island

Although the island area is small, there are about seventeen miles of roads on it, and people have needed facilities for getting around on the island during the entire history of the community. The early large hotels maintained livery stables for the convenience of their guests. Gascoyne operated a livery for transient visitors, and many of the residents kept their own horses and buggies.

The Put-in-Bay Water Works, Light, and Railway Company was incorporated in 1890, with a capital stock of \$150,000.00, and was under the same management and control as the Hotel Victory. They advertised that the water works would be complete, capable of supplying Put-in-Bay and the cottages in Victory Park, while the electric light plant would have the same capabilities. They proposed to build a traction line from the corner of the park around the harbor, via Peach Point and the west shore to the hotel, and from there back by way of the caves to the place of beginning.

On January 27, 1891, the Village Council granted permission for the construction of a street car line on the north side of Bayview Avenue, from Catawba Avenue to Hartford Avenue. This part of the proposed system was established, and it was used during the summer seasons to transport people from the Park to the caves and on to the Hotel Victory. Its tracks ran around the hotel, down to the corner by the old cemetery where it swung wide across the road, and then back obliquely across the road again. A trestle was built up across the low area close to Perry's Cave, and there



FIG. 16.—The island car and cutter taxi, at the island airport.

was a side-track at the Cave woods, where two cars passed on regular runs. The track continued along the road on the side of Perry's Cave to the bend in the road in front of the Arbor Inn, where it crossed to the other side, and it came to an end at the corner of the Park, across from Doller's Store.

There were eight cars brought here, numbered from one to eight, but only 1, 2, 3, and 4 were ever used, and usually only two of them. The extra four were later taken away. The cars had open sides, and the seats ran crossways and were placed back to back. At the ends of the line the trolley was swung around, and the motorman and conductor changed places.

The electricity to operate them was produced at a steam power plant near the Victory Hotel, and this same plant furnished current for the hotel. When the hotel burned, Heineman and Gascoyne carried water over in a pipe line from Perry's Cave and ran the

cars out to the caves for one or two years, but thereafter auto busses put the electric line out of business, and the tracks were removed for junk.

During recent years most of the residents own and operate automobiles. Some families maintain also "jalopies", which are old cars with the tops removed for safety when driving on the ice. Cars are driven on the ice between islands and occasionally to the mainland and very commonly from town out to the fishing shanties on the ice. (Fig. 16.)

CHAPTER XIX

POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS

The first electricity on South Bass Island was probably that produced in the steam power plant which was built in 1891 to operate the traction line system from the town to the Victory Hotel and to supply current for the needs of that hotel. Although the Put-in-Bay Water Works, Light, and Traction Co. advertised that their light plant would be capable of meeting the needs of the entire community, it is certain that it did not meet these needs at any time. The Put-in-Bay House had its own small power plant for producing its own electricity, and other establishments were doubtless also thus equipped.

The Village Council, on May 7, 1903, granted a franchise to Mr. R. K. Ramsey to operate a light plant, and Ramsey must have planned to supply the village with electric power, but his plan was not realized. Another franchise was granted three years later, to the Put-in-Bay Improvement Company to operate a light and power company, and this led to the construction of the steam generator plant at II-4-13. The primary purpose involved in the operation of this plant was the lighting of the new Colonial dance hall, which the Put-in-Bay Improvement Co. had just built, but this service was extended to cover most of the island.

On May 15, 1929, the electric system on South Bass Island was formally taken over by the Ohio Public Service Company, and the old, gas-driven generators have been kept as a stand-by for use whenever the regular source of power becomes temporarily unavailable. There has been a submarine cable in operation since 1929, bringing over to the island 6900 volts which are reduced to 2300 volts by the step-down transformers at the south end of the island. (Fig. 17.)

In 1929, there were approximately 200 customers during the winter, and about 65 extra customers each summer. ("Delta", Vol. VI, No. 20, issued by the O. P. S. Co. on May 23, 1929).

The Put-in-Bay Telegraph Company was organized in 1873. It operated three offices, of which the main one was in Sandusky, and it maintained about 20 miles of its own wire, leasing about eight miles of Western Union wires. It owned a small submarine

cable for connecting the island to the mainland, and William Haas manipulated the key at the island end while Mrs. Stem was the Sandusky agent. This remained an independent line, under local control, but offering very unsatisfactory service until an automatic instrument was installed in Stoiber's Store, in 1945.

The first telephone cable was installed by the Central Union Telephone Co., in 1899, and this company operated on a franchise within the village as well as connecting with the mainland elementary systems of that day and age. The line ended in a telephone

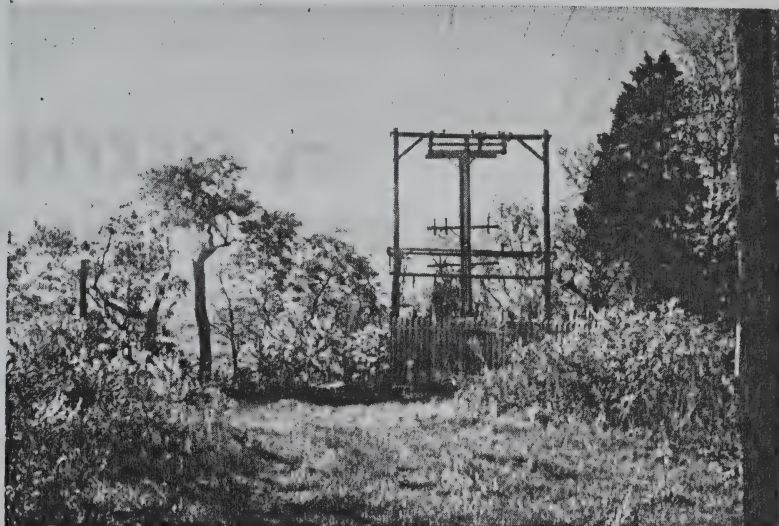


FIG. 17—Electricity is transformed at the island end of a submarine cable.

in Hollway's Store, and there was a big switch and fuse on the pole in front of the store which had to be safeguarded in every storm. There was a switchboard in the store to connect with a series of three other telephones on the island, and they were used principally for starting the street cars at both ends of the line so they could pass at the side-track by the Caves without undue delay. One of the telephones was in the Victory power house, one at Perry's Cave, and the third one was in Doller's Store. The switchboard operator was Bill Schnoor.

The overhanging alcove on the Schiele Building, next to the Town Hall was built to house the telephone exchange, but when Hollway sold his store he removed the exchange to his home, at II-31A. Later it was moved again, to the house at II-4D, across from the Arbor Inn in 1940, and in 1944 an automatic exchange was installed in a new small brick building on the back end of that same lot.

The original small Central Union Telephone Company was absorbed into the Ottawa County Telephone Company some time before 1915, and the Northern Ohio Telephone Company absorbed the Ottawa County Telephone Company in 1924. A larger submarine cable, carrying eight wires, was installed in 1925, and one of the eight wires was leased to the local telegraph company. This cable was built with sealed off sections, so that parts could be replaced, but the entire cable "went bad" and the island had no wire service to mainland from February to July, 1941. The new cable then laid has given better service, though the automatic exchange needs more attention that it receives to provide really satisfactory telephone service for the community.

CHAPTER XX

A RESUME AND SOME GENERALIZATION

South Bass Island is a land mass of limited area which possesses certain specified geological and biological characteristics, and these, plus its climate, constitute its natural resources for use by people. An attempt has been made to show the influence of this environment upon the human community which it supports, and the influences of the people upon the island environment which supports them.

White men began using the island's resources in 1811, and their activities have had some effects upon the island from that date onward. Not until 1854 were there enough people present on the island to constitute a community, so the history of the community begins then. The adjustments of the early settlers were principally to the environmental features of the island, but later adjustments were mainly to each other.

The early settlers learned that the local limestone was too hard to be burned as basic material for making lime mortar, and that buildings could be erected more easily by importing lumber than by using any local materials. They learned how to catch the kinds of fishes which were present in the lake, and how to smoke them or salt them down in kegs for later use. They learned that the island soils would produce dependable crops of grapes in the prevailing climate, and that the grapes could be used to make a marketable quality of wines. They learned how to navigate without being wrecked by the hidden reefs or the vagaries of the weather, and they learned the best ways to build docks and the best places to locate them so they would longer withstand the destructive activities of waves and ice. As part of the larger culture group, they learned to make use of naphtha, gasoline, and diesel oil for power, of electricity, telephones, radios, airplanes, innumerable gadgets, exotic foods, etc., etc.

As the human community on South Bass Island enlarged, the component individuals learned to get along with each other. They elected certain of their associates to represent group interests in matters of common concern, and they organized a township and a village government. They organized a school system in order to

delegate to some individuals the task of teaching the children of all families in the group. They shared interest in the matrimonial events (Fig. 5) and in the coming of babies, and they grieved together for the loss of associates. They organized various forms of pleasurable activities, such as sail boating, ice boating, swimming, skating, dancing, card games, baseball, boxing, dramatics, and harmonizing. Cooperation was the keynote to existence in the community. (Figs. 18 and 19.)



Fig. 18—Santa Claus distributes presents in the Town Hall.

As the demands grew for such local products as fish, wines, living accommodations, and transportation, competition developed between various individuals and groups for the profits to be gained therefrom, and the more successful competitors gained some economic advantages over their fellows. The large number of moderately successful business men of the early period passed through a process of elimination which led to a smaller number of more successful business men, and to an increase in the proportion of their associates who became their employees.

The island community was affected by the same social forces which were operative in the larger community of the nation, and reacted coincidentally with the larger community to wars, industrialization, prosperity and depressions. During the general depression in economic activities of the 1930s, the few prosperous citizens retrenched, and many of the impoverished families removed from the island. At that time, many of the vineyards were abandoned,

and the press-buildings and houses became dilapidated, while such community concerns as the standards of schooling, religion, and morality were lowered. When the community was at an all-time low as far as thrift and well-being were concerned, the principal island industries were absorbed by larger off-island interests. A Sandusky wine company seized the opportunity to buy a large share of all of the tillable land, and then hired island men to rehabilitate the buildings and prepare the land for new grapevines. Other



FIG. 19—Island children play around the water.

off-islanders bought retail catering “joints” in the village, and an extensive series of slot machines was installed by an off-island owner.

During the Second World War, city people received big wages and flocked to resorts to spend their money. The excursion steamers brought capacity loads to Put-in-Bay, and the islanders felt the flush times by the amount of money they handled. Many of the old homesteads exchanged owners for high prices, and the new comers spent freely to fix the places over into pleasant summer homes. Superficially, boom times have come to the community, but the community is actually undergoing disintegration. The profits made by the sale of island products, grapes and fish, and the revenues of the “joints” and slot machines are mostly removed from the community. The members of the community show little real regard for the common welfare, and none at all for the future welfare of

the group. Instead of improving the local school so as to satisfy the needs of its developing generation, the young people are being sent away to better schools elsewhere, and instead of planning island futures for their children, the citizens are hoping the children may find employment elsewhere "with better futures".

The planned and deliberate use of the willingness of some people to do work on a non-mutual basis, whereby the user reaps personal benefit from such work, leads to the growth of social classes and a hierarchical system. The human community on South Bass Island has passed through the pioneer stage of unintegration, the secondary stage of integration on the basis of cooperation, and has been in the tertiary stage of integration on the basis of an economic hierarchy for many years. The system of employer-employee relationship has grown from the stage of minor distinction between many individuals to that of major separation between employees and fewer but more powerful individuals or small groups of powerful people. The number of people forming the employee group has shown a steady decline from the beginning of the hierarchy. As the number of employees has become too low to be profitably exploited, new members have been added by the employers who have sent over to the island some transient laborers for work in the fisheries and vineyards. However, these new members have not become permanently established in the community, moving on, as true transients do.

This sequence of events among people on the limited land mass of an island is quite comparable to that observed and described for bass in the limited area of a rearing pond. The few individual bass which prosper at the expense of their fellows grow incredibly fast to magnificent sizes, but when the sequence of events leading to that end is prevented the general welfare of all individuals in the group is incomparably greater. To attain this objective, the fish culturist must play the role of benevolent controller, using the mass of individual fish to make the few dominant individuals accept their share of the common lot, and by providing so amply for every individual that competition yields no gain to anyone. The growth of consciousness of the power of the human mass leads to the hope that this strength may be wielded for the general good without the intervention of an extraneous (and perhaps benevolent) controller.

The effects of this series of human activities on the island which has served as the environment have been varied. The removal of the natural cover of trees, shrubs, and litter along the shoreline has promoted the loss of soil and rocks by weathering and

erosion. Much soil has been eroded from the surface of the land and washed down into the lake, to the detriment of both the land and the lake. The process of soil formation out of bedrock has been greatly retarded by the frequent removal of organic accumulations by burning. The other biological components of the environment have been seriously affected. The normal ecological succession of plant forms had progressed to the climax stage of oaks, hickories, maples, and their associates. People have continually removed these plants from the land, and have prevented the development of an early stage of a new successional series. Faunal changes accompany floral changes, so these also have been seriously retarded.

In general, the destructive activities of people have reduced the capacity of the island to support a human population, and the future use of the island by people will need to be limited to transient occupation, with the importation of essential supplies, or to the continuous support of a very small number of people on a self-sustaining basis.

No individuals have had serious difficulty in meeting their needs for existence in the community on South Bass Island, during its 93 years of existence as a community. Every individual has created some product or other or has sold his labor, and has thus acquired the means to enjoy food, clothing, shelter, safety, and some measure of congeniality. All individuals also have been consumers of the items needed to maintain life in moderate comfort. As producers and consumers, there has been less divergence in the patterns of their respective lives than in the effects each individual has had on his fellows.

The intra-individual effects have been of two main types, and these are distinguished by the motive of the effector. The stimulated individual expends increased effort, and these efforts benefit either himself or the effector. Effective stimulation to greater kindness or intellectual effort has been of benefit principally to the person so stimulated, yielding only satisfaction to the preacher or teacher, but the stimulator to increased physical efforts has gained financial advantage for himself.

The capacity of the human body to do work is like that of any other machine for converting energy from one form into another, and it has become a commodity to be bought and sold. The laborer sells his working capacity for an hourly price to his employer. The employer also labors, and he doubles his capacity to work by hiring an extra machine. The employer directs the work of his own body and that of his employee into the conversion of some raw resources into items which he thinks people will buy, and he gambles on his

ability to sell for profit. The employee prefers to sell his labor to selling the products of his labor. He prefers to be paid wages to taking the chance for greater returns by selling his product, because the latter involves competing with other salesmen, and there is great inequality in competitive ability.

The study of the human community on South Bass Island has revealed the fact that an economic hierarchy results from the unequal ability of individuals to compete in a limited market for profits to be derived from the distribution of the products of their toil. This unequal ability has led to accumulations of capital by the more successful competitors, and these individuals have been able to expand their abilities to produce and distribute. These power centers have great capacity to benefit or harm all individuals within their range of influence, and the effects they have are dependent upon the judgment and motives of the individual or small group of individuals in control.

The tragic aspect of the problem of human relationships is this concentration of attention on inter-individual competition at the cost of the environment in which men live. The natural resources are the goods used in this competition for power over people, and they have been used so heedlessly that mankind has destroyed much of the basis for his existence on earth. The transformation of solar energy into human bodies which are capable of doing work, involves soil, plants, and other animals. The techniques of competitive production have been directed towards individual profits, not towards making best use of these natural resources by this and all of the other generations yet to come.

This study questions the tenability of the theory that every individual has the right to pursue his economic self-interest as a priority to and independent of his obligation to perform functions which will be of benefit to his fellow men. It supports Tawney's principle, that "If a society is to be healthy, men must regard themselves, not as owners of rights, but as trustees for the discharge of functions."

There is a vital problem involved in effecting a widespread and general substitution of values, whereby individuals forego the chance to attain great economic power in order to gain contentment by promoting the welfare of others. It involves the adoption by all individuals of a personal philosophy such as that expressed by Napoleon Hill, as follows.

"Every year that I live, I am more convinced that the waste of life lies in the love we have not given, the powers we have not used, the selfish prudence that will risk nothing, and which, shirking pain, misses happiness as well."

Some religions advocate a way of life based on the "do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you" concept, but churches have expanded into world-wide business organizations, with selfish interests dominant to such an extent that their example largely nullifies their precepts. Schools likewise, have grown to be like factories which produce graduates instead of scholars, imparting only the dangerously little knowledge and training the multitudes who pass through their doors only in a few specialized skills. Governments, set up to safeguard the welfare of their citizens, have become the biggest businesses of all, run by politicians who are interested primarily in the fare at the "pie-counter." Meanwhile, the resources are being squandered, so that, as Stephen Schlitzer said in "Legacy":

"We're told that the meek will inherit the earth,
Though I can't understand what they'll do with it;
For it's little of merit the meek will inherit
After the others get through with it."

No small part of the problem of effecting the necessary shift in values is to be found in the fact that our modern industrialization has led to tremendous aggregations of people in urban centers, and these people are so far from the land which produces the food and other materials required for their existence that they are almost totally unaware of their continued dependence on the soil and plants. They are actually unaware of the basic problems involved in extracting their food substances from the soil, problems which have been created by their existence in cities. Most flagrant of all abuses of natural resources are those resulting from the excess demands placed upon the soil for the production of ever abnormal graneries.

The solution to this appalling problem will not be simple, when it is found. It will surely involve some of the following procedures.

1. The reward for placing selfish interests prior to social interests, i.e., the privilege of accumulating resources and exercising the power inherent in such accumulations, will be denied to special groups of individuals and individuals.

2. New rewards will be established, whereby especially capable individuals will be acclaimed for the benefits to mankind of their efforts.

3. Acceptance of this new objective for human effort by all people will be made possible by the use of combinations of intellectual and emotional appeal.

This concept of inherent inequality in ability to compete as the primary factor involved in the acquisition of economic and

social power, is based upon the facts that no two individuals are alike or equally able to do the same things, and that capitalists and laborers are individuals before they are members of social classes. It conflicts with the Marxian theory that class struggle arises from the extraction of surplus value by the capitalist class from the working class at the point of production. It also conflicts with the Williams' conclusion that the conflict is between people as consumers rather than as producers. It locates the center of social and economic difficulties in the theory of the priority of individual rights over their functional responsibilities. The same concept carries over beyond that of individual people to that of individual groups of all sizes, from simple partnerships to nationalities. This is not socialism, or communism. It is not nationalism or internationalism. It is not Buddhism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism, or Christianity. It is not Catholicism or Protestantism. It is humanism. It aims to make better lives for the least of us, and to prevent the waste of life by the better of us. It needs to come soon, for, in man's relationship to his natural resources, it is much later than he thinks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ted Phillips—numerous facts from an excellent memory about the history of the community and its members. Loan of picture of Herbster's Restaurant.

Paul Webster for loan of a program of entertainment and an early school record.

Arny Burggraf for data on vineyard operation and production.

Can Miller for information on sequence of owners and residents of many places. Also for loan of 1898 booklet on "Port Clinton and Environs".

Nate Ladd for loan of booklets on early island history.

E. R. Weeks for drawings of island.

Mrs. George Vroman for gift of original documents and loan of photographs of Philip Vroman.

Jack Day for loan of a series of post-cards of island history and for loan of his abstract of title to Lot I-7.

Mrs. Robert Hartman for loan of numerous original documents and old island pictures.

REFERENCE-SOURCE RECORDS

Frank Fuchs, Clerk of the School Board, in March, 1944, loaned the following records:

1. Journal Entry type of cardboard-bound book, with label pasted on the front which reads "School Record." pp. 1-124 contain hand written records by successive Clerks of the Board of Education, beginning on page 1 with the minutes of the "Annual Meeting of the Board of Education of Put-in-Bay Township on the Second Monday in April, 1863". On page 124 are the minutes of the "Regular meeting of the Board of Education held this 21st day of April, 1890, in Township room in town hall".

2. Journal type of cardboard-bound book, with binding unglued and in poor shape. pp. 1 and 2 lost. Page 3 dated Saturday, April 17th, 1880, begins, "Organization of the Board of Education for Special School District of Put-in-Bay." The last entry, on page 103, dated April 18, 1898, reads, "Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Put in-Bay Special School District". The volume is filled with hand-written minutes of the Board meetings during the 18 years covered.

3. Journal type of hard cover book, unlabeled. In fair condition. On page 2 are minutes of a "Special meeting of the Board of Education of Put-in-Bay Special School District," dated June 27th, 1898. The volume is filled with consecutive records of meetings, all in the handwriting of the succession of Clerks. On page 149, are the minutes of the "Meeting Board of Education held in the Council Room of Town Hall, June 1st, 1909". On pages 150-1, there is a "Record of Graduates with names and percentages of the general average". The list begins with 1895 and extends through 1907.

4. Journal type of hard-cover book, unlabeled. Binding going bad. On the frontispage is handwritten "Record Book. Board of Education, Village of District, Put-in-Bay, O. June 14, 1909". On page 1 are the "Minutes of Meeting of Board of Education held Council Room, Town Hall, June 11, 1909". The record of the meeting of Nov. 7, 1919, on pages 243-7, are the last in this book, with blank pages to page 298.

Supt. Bernard Campbell in March, 1944 loaned me the following:

5. Journal type hard-bound volume. Label stuck on front reading, "Minutes of the Board of Education. Nov. 22, 1919-May 18, 1928."

6. Journal type hard-bound book in good condition. On outside of front cover has been written "Grade Book of Put-in-Bay Public Schools. 1901-1913". On page 2 are the records of the First grade, 1901. On page 2 are records of Second grade, 1901, etc. 1902 records begin on page 24, 1903 on page 43, etc. The records of Grade 12, 1913, are on page 229. The balance of the book, to page 251, includes records of upper class pupils in 1918-1919.

7. A series of tabloid papers called "The Oliver Hazard," published by the class in journalistic writing of Put-in-Bay High School. 1925-26.

Rev. D. A. Cassetta of St. Paul's Episcopal Church loaned me the following books:

8. Journal type cardboard-bound book, binding not very good. On page 1, is a hand written index, listing "Baptisms, confirmations, communicants, marriages, burials, Register of people on the Island and Constitution and Covenant of St. Paul's Church, Independent—Put-in-Bay." The entries are in the handwriting of the several persons who have served here, beginning in 1865 and extending to 1887, records having time lapses.

9. Journal type cardboard volume. Good condition. Records of St. Paul's Church from Oct. 6, 1889, to May, 1912. Incomplete records.

10. Mayor's Docket. In Mayor's office. Town Hall.

11. Records of births and deaths in Mayor's office.

12. Abstract of title to a lot on South Bass Island. In possession of T. H. Langlois.

13. A volume of photostat records of Connecticut Land Co., in County Recorder's office at Warren, Ohio.

14. A volume of original records of South Bass Island in County Recorder's office at Port Clinton, Ohio.

15. A file of receipt stubs for shipment of grapes by Arnold Burggraf, in his possession.

16. U. S. Census Records of Agricultural Production in 1860 and 1880. On file in the State Library in Columbus.

17. A 3½"x5" stiff bound red folder of pictures, labeled "Lake Erie Islands", published and copyrighted in 1886 by Adolph Witteman, 25 Park Place, N. Y. Loaned to me by Nate Ladd.

18. A 5½"x7½" rectangular paper covered booklet, entitled "Compliments of the Beebe House, Put-in-Bay Island, O." 20 pps.

19. A 4½"x8" paper-covered booklet, entitled "Your Vacation" published by the Put-in-Bay Board of Trade. Cover picture girl and man in small boat named Put-in-Bay.

20. A 4½"x7" paper-covered booklet entitled "Put-in-Bay, Ohio, The Saratoga of the West". 32 pp. Published by the Put-in-Bay Improvement Co. T. B. Alexander, President and General Manager.

21. A bound record book in the Ottawa County Record's office at Port Clinton. Pages 33 through 41 have long hand record of the Incorporation of the Village of Put-in-Bay, beginning with the filing of a Petition on May 5, 1875, continuing with an amended petition, including two Remonstrances and concluding with the authorization of incorporation. Includes maps to show territory enclosed by limits.

22. Deed to the first South Bass Island farm sold by De Rivera. Transcription of an original document, a Warranty Deed, loaned to me 4-7-1945, by Mrs. George Vroman.

Know all men by these Presents, that I, Joseph de Rivera St. Jurgo, and Josephine his wife of the County of New York and State of New York, in consideration of the sum of three thousand dollars, in hand paid by Philip Vroman of Ottawa County, Ohio, have bargained and sold, and do hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey, unto the said Philip Vroman, his heirs and assigns forever, the following premises, situate in the County of Ottawa, in the State of Ohio, and in the town of Van Ransellar and bounded and described as follows:

A piece or farm of land on the South Side of the Island, known

as South Bass, bounded on the Southerly side by the waters of Lake Erie and on all other sides by lands of the grantor, being the farm next easterly of the farm now occupied by Simon Vroman, said piece or farm of land now sold to Philip Vroman containing about ninety-three acres, be the same more or less, as per survey made by E. Frank, County surveyor.

To have and to hold said premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said Philip Vroman, his heirs and assigns forever.

And the said Rivera St. Jurgo and his wife Josephine, for themselves and heirs, do hereby covenant with the said Philip Vroman, his heirs and assigns, that they are lawfully seized of the premises aforesaid, that the premises are free and clear from all encumbrances whatever, and that they will forever warrant and defend the same, with the appurtenances unto the said Philip Vroman, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

And be it further known that I, Josephine de Rivera St. Jurgo, wife of the above named grantor, in consideration of one dollar to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby remise, release, and forever quit claim to said Grantee, his heirs and assigns, all my right, title and interest in and to the above granted premises, either by way of Dower or otherwise.

In Testimony whereof, we, the said Rivera St. Jurgo and Josephine, his wife, hereunto set our hand and seal this twenty-fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1859.

J. DE RIVERA ST. JURGO, L.S.

JOSEPHINE DE RIVERA ST. JURGO, L.S.

On the 26th of November 1859, Joseph and Josephine attested their signatures to the above deed before James A. Briggs, Commissioner for Ohio in New York.

Rec'd for Record May 29, 1860, and Recorded June 8, 1860, by J. A. Goodrich of Ottawa Co., Ohio.

23. Lease issued in 1869, showing De Rivera's method of encouraging grape culture and of exploiting the cave as a show place for visitors to the island.

Transcription of an original longhand document loaned to me 4-7-1945 by Mrs. George Vroman:

This memorandum of agreement and mature consideration made out and entered into between Henry C. de Rivera and Thomas de Rivera both of the City of New York, of the first part, and Philip Vroman of Ottawa County, Ohio, of the second part: sheweth

That the first party leases to the second party for the purpose of tilling and putting the land in first rate order and for the period of five (5) years from this date, the tract of land now in fence comprising Lots No. 10, 13, 14, 34, and 35. Range north of County Road.

The second party in consideration of the premises, agrees to thoroughly till the cleared part of the above lots and to give to the first party in lieu of rent one-third of all crops (excepting only grapes) raised by the second party and to be delivered to the said first party in marketable order by the halfbushel or other measure. The second party further agrees to plant not to exceed four (4) acres of the above premises to grapevines and is to be paid for said planting by the first party at the rates of labor current on the island. The second party is also to be paid for the posting and wiring or the staking of the vineyard, and for tending the same he is to have one-half of the crops raised during the term of this lease.

The second party is to have charge of the woods on lots no. 10 and 13, and agrees to have the grounds kept clean of brush and in proper order for which work he is to have for his own use the dead trees on the grounds, but no live trees are to be cut without the express consent of the first party or their agent. During the period of this lease the second party has the privilege of showing the cave to the public, on condition however that the charge for entering said cave is not to exceed ten cents a person, on all ordinary occasions. No buildings of any kind are to be erected on the premises without the special consent of the first party, nor are the grounds to be sublet without the knowledge and permission of the first party or their agent.

In case the premises are sold before the expiration of this lease, the second party is to be paid the fair value of his share of the crops in or on the ground at the time.

Privileges not expressly granted are reserved by the first party.

Put-in-Bay 1 September 1869
RIVERA ST. JURGO
by THEO. LOWENSTEIN, Mgr.
PHILLIP VROMAN

24. Early Share-cropper's lease for an island vineyard.

Transcription of original document loaned to me 4-7-1945, by Mrs. George Vroman. Longhand.

Memorandum of Contract entered into this 27th day of October 1879 between Henry C. de Rivera of New York of the first part, and Philip Vroman of Put-in-Bay Island Ohio of the second part.

- First:* The party of the first part agrees to rent to the party of the second part, for the period of ten years from the first day of November 1879 the tract of land situated on the Island of Put-in-Bay, and known as the Cave Farm, said tract to be occupied free of rent, and for the purpose of tilling and putting the land in first rate order.
- Second:* The party of the second part agrees to farm in a thorough and husbandlike manner, all the land, now or later to be in a state of production, and to set out in grapes, within three years that piece of land roughly estimated at fifteen acres and situated north of the present vineyard, also in peaches and apples next spring, no less than five acres of land.
- Third:* All the labor of setting out the grape roots and fruit trees, driving the posts, and setting out the wires for the vineyards to be borne by the party of the second part, free of pay.
- Fourth:* The cost of all posts and wire and grape roots that may be required, to be paid by the party of the first part.
- Fifth:* The product of the farm is to be divided share and share alike annually, the picking, selling, etc., to be attended to by the party of the second part, free of expense to party of the first part.
- Sixth:* The cave situated on the farm is to be shown to the public and cared for by and at the expense of the party of the second part, the party of the first part receiving in lieu of half the income from said cave, an annual rent of three hundred dollars, payable on or before the 15 Aug., of each year. At the end of five years, if no mutual agreement can be made for rent of the cave, then the profits are to be divided, share and share alike.

Seventh: No building of any kind to be erected on the farm, nor is the farm or any portion of it to be sublet without the consent in writing of the party of the first part.

Eighth: All privileges not expressly granted are reserved by the party of the first part.

H. C. DE RIVERA
PHILLIP VROMAN

25. An Original Record of Early Life on South Island.

Daniel Vroman wrote the following sketch of the history of Put-in-Bay, on a piece of wall-paper. His daughter, Mrs. Robert Hartman, loaned it to me in Sept. 1945, in a badly tattered condition:

The beautiful islands comprising our township are part of the Firelands or Western Reserve and were given or deeded to Judge Ogden Edwards of New York by the State of Connecticut.

Put-in-Bay island was visited in 1811 by Seth Done, agent of Judge Edwards and over 100 acres of wheat was sown the fall of that year. They had harvested and were engaged in threshing the wheat when the British and Indians drove them off the island. In the fall of 1812 destroying what was on the island and also 2000 bushels that had been stored away in a log house on what is now known as Catawba island. The Bass islands, Put-in-Bay formerly Ross Island, Middle Bass as Isle De Fleur, Isle St. George, and the smaller islands with Catawba Id. constituting Van Rennseleur Twp.—which was divided about 1860 and the two townships of Put-in-Bay and Catawba formed.

As a sailor Father came to Put-in-Bay in 1843 on a Schooner that came for trade at the island. While loading he made the acquaintance of Alfred P. Edwards who had succeeded his brother Judge Edwards in the ownership of the islands. Mr. Edwards taking a liking to Father persuaded him to enter his employ, and he has been a resident of the island ever since except about one year when he owned a farm at Parkertown near Sandusky, O.

Perhaps my earliest recollection is of a ride Mother and I took through a winding woods road from a log house near the lake on what is now the Anton Fuchs place on the south shore. The vehicle in which we rode was a dump cart, and the team a yoke of oxen. The lynch pin came loose and we were unceremoniously dumped out. Mother said that I always asked after that, when we took rides, Will it dump, Ma? It is a saying that character is in a measure determined by the child's playmates and associates. My first playmates were a couple of calves.

I was the only child on the island and I amused myself by driving the calves around. Father found me with them, in the woods near the light house, some over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from home.

My next remembrance is of a different part of the island. We had moved to town and lived in a hewed log house near the manor, or white house, as we used to call it. Mr. Edwards Residence was a large two story house surrounded with wide verandas and having a full basement. It was surrounded by a picket fence and numerous out buildings including work and carpenter shop, black smith shop, and other buildings. A large barn occupied the space just off the road on the museum property.

At this time the Manor House was occupied by Mr. Edwards agent, Mr. Archibald Jones and his family, and I had a boy playmate of about my own age. *Once upon a time* a vessel loaded with supplies for Monroe Mich came to anchor in the bay. A violent storm came

up, she dragged her anchors and stranded down near the Hunker or Lockwood place at east point. The wet goods were brought up dried and stored in the carpenter shop over winter. I remember the picket fence all around was capped with an inverted leather boot drying. After the good things were nicely put away in the carpenter shop, two young rats had a picknick all fall and winter. There were sacks of nuts of all kinds, boxes of raisins, and all we had to do was help ourselves. We were *monarchs* of *all* we *surveyed*. There were also things for older ones barrels of various kinds of liquors, tobacco, etc. I will not say how many times these packages had been tapped but think a large percentage of contents evaporated.

Between our houses which were only a few rods apart were two tombstones, I remember, one marked the grave of Sarah, wife of Henry Hyde, who died and was buried there in 1830. The family came to the island in 1818 only five years after the battle of Lake Erie, and for 14 years were the only family on the island.

Mr. Rivera purchased the islands from Mr. Edwards in 1854. The Jones family moved away, and Simon Fox became agent for Mr. Rivera and Theodore Lauenstein book keeper etc. Father bought the first farm sold I think in 1856. He acted as foreman for Mr. Rivera as he had previously for Mr. Edwards. Mr. Lawrence Miller, Mr. Joseph Miller, of Middle Bass, Mr. Andrew Wehrle, George Hinger and John Mitchell were all included in the force that carried on the work in the fifties for Rivera. The saw mill was built (which is now being torn down by the Doller estate) and when V. Doller bought the place which had previously been abandoned as a saw mill, he converted it into a store, hall, post office and general temple of usefulness. It served well for many years until better business places were built.

We had excursions even then. The Foye boys August and Louis and myself were at the Doller dock one day when some one spied this V. Doller Post Office one said Hello, theres a \$5.00 P.O.

The frame part of the V. Doller residence was almost twice as long as it now is. Frank Rinkleff, Engineer of the Str. Island Queen, owned the Fred Burggraf place. They moved a part of the house onto the Rinkleff place and it made homes for both families.

The first funeral I ever attended was from the frame or rear part of the V. Doller residence. This was before V. Doller came to the island. The house had been built for the people who operated the saw mill and the family in charge lost a little babe. The interment was on Gibraltar just up from the Cook dock between two maple trees. The whole cortege went over in one row boat. I could pick out the spot until lately think one of the trees may have been removed.

The front of Capt Dodge's home place was our early place of burial. Some of my school mates lie buried there, some were removed to the hill cemetery overlooking Stones Cove, and the old cemetery is a thing of the past. Our oldest citizens are Philip Vroman, Amelia Vroman, his wife, D. P. Vroman, Joseph Ruh, Louis Foye, Mrs. Lawrence Miller.

26. Brown's Independent Company of Infantry.

Among the several items loaned to me in July, 1945, by Mrs. Robert Hartman, is a clipping from a newspaper (unnamed and undated). Transcribed verbatim.

Put-in Bay Had Military Company, Organized by Capt. John Brown, after Boat Capture Scare.

How a company of "Home Guards" was organized at Put-in-Bay by John Brown, son of the noted abolitionist, is told in papers found

among Brown's effects at Put-in Bay by Mrs. T. H. Alexander, his daughter.

It was in 1864, after the attempt to free the prisoners at Johnson's Island had been frustrated, that the island people became aroused. The capture of the Philo Parsons and the Island Queen at Middle Bass by John Yates Beall and his men, as a part of the prison conspiracy, caused great excitement among islanders, who were warned of the danger of a rebel invasion and advised to hide all their valuables.

This was on September 19. On Sept. 30, Brown wrote to Col. Chas. W. Hill, commanding the United States forces in Sandusky and at Johnson's Island, as follows:

Considering the importance, in a military sense, of that cluster of inhabited islands comprised within the township of Put-in Bay, viz., South Bass or Bay Island, Middle Bass, Sugar Island, North Bass, Rattlesnake and Green Island, I have thought it proper to take immediate steps for the organization, arming and thorough military instruction of the capable arms-bearing men of the township, whereby they may be rendered capable not only of self-protection, but of becoming efficient also in case of need to guard the commerce of the lakes.

Southwest Point of South Bass Island commands the South Channel; the Northeast Point of same islands, as also Gibraltar island, commands the Middle channel; a Battery on North Bass Island, aided by armed vessels, would have control of the North channel, thus constituting the gate of our great water thoroughfare.

To promote and secure the aforementioned objects, I can raise in that township a company of National Guards, under the military laws of the state, provided the men can have assurance from competent authority that they will not be called away from the defense of the island and immediate vicinity, unless such an emergency should arise as should induce the governor to call out the entire enrolled militia of the state.

Any assistance you can render in obtaining this assurance, and also good arms and equipment, will be duly appreciated and thankfully received. I will be responsible for the loyal and efficient military character of such a company.

John Brown's father had been executed for his part in the Harper's Ferry raid, and John, jr., had been active in pre-war agitation. He was captain of a Kansas military company. His army career after the outbreak of the civil war was brief, however, his health failing him, and in 1862 he went to Put-in Bay and established a home. He was keenly interested in the war and among his papers are passes which were issued to him, permitting him to visit Johnson's Island.

The letter to Col. Hill, commandant at the island, went through the usual military channels and, under date of October 18, Gen. B. R. Cowen, adjutant general of Ohio, wrote to him, authorizing him to proceed with the formation of the proposed company, under the conditions named.

The company was enlisted and Brown was elected captain. His commission, signed by Governor John Brough, was dated Nov. 24. The company was designated as "Brown's Independent Company of Infantry".

An invoice of shipment on the C. C. and C. R. R. shows that there was forwarded from Columbus to Capt. Brown 50 French rifles, 50 bayonets, etc., belts, plates, gun slings, etc.

The roll of the company lists the following men and their respective ages, all being from Put-in-Bay:

Wyman H. Dodge, 18	Francis Delaishe, 18
Henry Thompson, 42	Charles Hitchcock, 17
Jason Brown, 41	James W. Foster, Jr., 19
De LaRoy Webster, 24	Ephraim A. Foster, 15
Theodore Lowenstein, 47	Orlando K. Foster, 17
John Brown, jr., 43	Ulysses J. Meachem, 38
Simon Vroman, 38	George Smith, 39
Philip Vroman, 42	George Bickford, 30
Daniel P. Vroman, 17	Valentine Doller, 30
G. Frederick Rotert, 32	Charles H. Heaton, 33
John Turk, 48	J. Casper Schraidt, 41
George Hinger, 34	Charles Ruh, 31
Alonzo R. Sharpe, 24	La Torre Webster, 19
Ralph D. Hammond, 21	John S. Doller, 17
George Weihl, 24	Alex Hitchcock, 47
Thomas Wing, 35	William H. Arlin, 15
Francis S. Wild, 37	Hezekiah Bickford, 25
Peter Betts, 32	John Nelson, 17
Peter Mackey, 23	Simon Fox, 41
Jason G. Terwilliger, 39	Joseph Down, 25
Patrick Sadler, 24	David Guthrie, 25
Joseph M. Beckstead, 31	John Thompson, 13
Amander Moore, 43	Joseph Coacher, 33
Christian Brick, 39	Alfred E. Palmer, 25
Philo Murray, 50	James B. Murray, 19

"of these 50 men, only two are living, so far as known, Daniel P. Vroman, residing with a daughter in Cleveland, and E. A. Foster in Sandusky. John Brown died in 1895 and is buried at Put-in-Bay. Other names on the list still are well known at the island and in Sandusky."

SOME ISLANDERS, THE YEAR OF THEIR ARRIVAL ON SOUTH BASS ISLAND, AND THEIR PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Pre 1811	Unnamed French Canadian squatters who doubtless hunted, trapped, and fished.	
1811	Seth Doan	Caretaker for John Stark Edwards, to clear land, plant wheat and start sheep.
1813	James Ross	Caretaker of Ross Island for Ogden Edwards.
1817	Asahel Johnson	Caretaker for Ogden Edwards.
1818	Henry Hyde	Caretaker for Ogden Edwards.
1836	John Pierpont	Dock builder.
1836	Alfred P. Edwards	New owner, cut timber and wood. Summer home.
1837	Jacob Scott	Lumberman.
1844	Philip Vroman	Laborer for A. P. Edwards.
1848	Archibald Jones	Caretaker for A. P. Edwards.
1850	Ben Napier	Squatter.
1854	De Rivera	New owner. Subdivided and promoted settlement.
1854	Karl Ruh	Tanner, grape grower and wine maker.
1854	Lorenz Miller I	Grape grower and wine maker.
1854	Lucas Meyer I	Grape grower.
1854	Theo. I. Lauenstein	Grape grower and agent for De Rivera.
1854	Luther Nelson	M.D. and farmer.
1855	Henry L. Foye	Grape grower.
1856	Joseph Ruh	Butcher, grape grower.
1857	George W. Orr	Captain of ferry boat. Home here.
1857	John Stone	Fisherman.
1857	Wyman Dodge	Farmer, grape grower.
1858	Frederick John Magle	Lake captain whose wife had relatives here.
1858	Ernst Franck	Surveyor—summers only.
1858	Weyman Francis Smith	Farmer.
1858	Martin Becker	Grape grower.
1859	Conrad Brookner	Farmer.
1859	Louis Harms	Farmer, grape grower.
1859	Simon Fox	Sloop ferry operator.
1859	V. Doller	Merchant.
1859	George W. Hinger	Farmer.
1859	Joseph Shortliff	Farmer.
1859	Simon Vroman	Farmer.
1859	Matt Burggraf Sr.	Grape grower and wine maker.
1860	John Freeman	Grape grower.
1860	Daniel Greenman	Grape grower.

1860	Martin Miller	Grape grower and fisherman.
1861	Joseph W. Gray	Summer home—recruiter.
1861	Isaac S. Palmer	Farmer.
1861	Joseph Beckstead	Grape grower and fisherman.
1861	Chris Brick	Grape grower.
1862	Peter Betts	Farmer.
1862	John Brown Jr.	Surveyor.
1862	Andrew Michael	Grape grower.
1862	Johann F. Noellert	Grape grower, laborer.
1862	Ralph R. Hammond	Fisherman.
1862	George M. Schmidt	Grape grower.
1862	De Lafayette Webster	School teacher and stone mason.
1862	Martin Andrees	Grape grower.
1862	Bird Beers Chapman	Boatman and politician.
1863	Jacob K. Drake	Carpenter, house builder.
1863	James W. Foster	Boat and coffin builder.
1863	Joseph Steiert	Grape grower.
1863	Marx Von Dohren	Grape grower.
1863	George Whitney	Grape grower and wine maker.
1863	Lorenzo B. Anthony	Fisherman. Partner to P. Vroman.
1863	Edward Auhl	Grape grower.
1864	George Bickford	Fisherman and blacksmith.
1864	Nick Fox	Grape grower.
1864	Amander Moore	Hotel keeper and realtor.
1864	James B. Murray	Grape grower.
1864	Geo. Fritz Rotert	Grape grower.
1864	J. Kasper Schraidt	Grape grower, carpenter, saloon keeper.
1864	James Terwilligar	Ship's carpenter. Agent for absentee owner, De Rivera.
1864	Chas. De Kay Townsend	M.D., retired.
1864	Henry B. West	Hotel operator.
1864	Wm. C. Brandon	Grape grower and fisherman for Stone.
1864	John S. Doller	Laborer for John S. Gibbons. Later boat liveryman and rooming house keeper.
1865	Charles Hollway	Blacksmith.
1865	Joseph Phillips	Cooper.
1865	Peter Bernette	Laborer for Lorenz Miller.
1865	Jay Cooke	Summer home, angler, evangelist.
1865	Chris Doller	Cobbler.
1865	J. M. Kendricks	First rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
1865	Charles Miller	Grape grower.
1865	Alois Niele	Cooper and grape grower.
1865	Alfred Parker I	Grape grower, stone mason.
1865	Andrew Schiele Sr.	Grape grower.
1865	Joseph Tyler	Grape grower.
1865	Doeke Brodersen	Grape grower.
1865	L. S. Brown	Grape grower and dock builder.
1865	Frederick Cooper	Rooming house operator and fisherman.
1865	Mrs. Anna C. McMeens	Housekeeper on Gibraltar.
1866	Jacob Haller	Grape grower.
1866	Edwin J. Holly	Carpenter and joiner.

1866	Ulyses J. Meacham	Fisherman.
1866	Jacob Merkley	Boiler operator and hotel proprietor.
1866	James Morrison	Fisherman.
1866	Franz Joseph Rincliff	Laborer for V. Doller.
1866	Nathan Dodge	Boatman and grape grower.
1867	Henry S. Gibbons	Carpenter, contractor.
1867	Andrew B. Decker	Hotel partner with Cooper.
1867	J. W. C. Duerr	Rector of St. Paul's.
1867	Karl Eckert	Grape grower.
1868	Christian P. Engel	Cobbler, grape grower.
1868	Isaac D. Jones	Dock master and store keeper.
1868	Dr. Charles West	Summer resident.
1868	Herman Wiltstein	Grape grower and wine maker.
1868	Martin Bearsch	Grape grower.
1869	George Gascoyne	Carpenter and contractor.
1869	Matt Ingold Sr.	Grape grower and wine maker.
1869	John Leow	Cabinet maker.
1869	Hiram Jackson Jones	Grape grower and wine maker.
1869	Henry Beebe	Hotel operator.
1869	Chas. W. Gorham	Grape grower.
1870	Edward P. Keimer	Carpenter for Montgomery and Gascoyne.
1870	S. W. B. McLean	Summer resident.
1870	Frederick Riedling	Grape grower and wine maker.
1870	John Wigand	Restaurant operator.
1870	Milan D. Holly	Grape grower.
1871	Herman A. Herbster	Bake shop and restaurant operator.
1871	Andrew H. Hunker	Hotel operator and confectioner.
1871	Clinton Idlor	Store keeper and dock master.
1871	Henry Pfeiffer	Grape grower and wine maker.
1871	Mrs. Elizabeth Pettit	
	Bertrand	Summer resident.
1872	George Baldwin	Restaurant and saloon operator.
1873	Lorenz Scherer	Cobbler.
1873	Frank Anton	Grape grower.
1873	William Bing	Hotel keeper.
1874	John G. Mertz	Barber.
1875	Adam Heidle	Carpenter for Gascoyne.
1875	William H. Koenig	Tin-typist and bartender.
1875	Joseph Miller	Cobbler, grape grower.
1875	James B. Monroe	Pres. Steamboat Co., summer resident.
1875	Leonard B. Osburn	Fisherman for V. Doller.
1875	James V. Smith	Boat liveryman.
1875	Michael B. Hermann	Grape grower.
1875	Smith Harrington	Odd job laborer.
1875	Julius Schenck	Grape grower and wine maker.
1876	George Hallock	Blacksmith.
1876	Henry Castor	Grape grower.
1877	Henry Ackerman	Tinsmith.
1877	Ernst Gram	Grape grower.
1878	Anthony Heuchele	Grape grower for Mrs. W. Wigand.
1878	Chas. H. Jachlinsky	M.D.
1879	John Esselbach	Carpenter.

1879	Anton Ruh	Grape grower.
1880	Joseph F. Stumpp	Grape grower.
1880	William F. Wagner	Grape grower.
1880	Walter Groves	Lake boat captain.
1881	Thos. W. Bookmyer	Schoolteacher.
1881	Walter H. Ladd	Odd job laborer.
1882	Frank Rittman	Butcher for Dempsey & Spade Co.
1882	John Dukes	Odd job laborer.
1882	John Gangwisch	Well driller.
1883	Jacob Eichenberger	Painter and paper hanger.
1883	Alfred P. Stewart	Toledoan—summer resident.
1884	Fred Gill	Hotel operator.
1884	Henry Reibel	Summer resident, rooming house, hotel keeper.
1884	Fred Wm. Burggraf	Grape grower.
1885	Charles Graves	Restaurant operator.
1885	Wm. John Kindt	Grape grower.
1885	Henry Klein	Expert grape grower and wine maker.
1885	Engelbert Oelschlager	Pack peddler, store keeper.
1885	Ernst Ritter	Carpenter.
1885	John Johnson	Fisherman.
1885	Lemuel S. Brown	Dock builder, etc.
1885	Eckhardt	Grape grower.
1886	Alex R. Bruce	Schoolteacher.
1887	Jack Day	Laborer for Gascoyne. Hotel keeper.
1887	William Fuchs	Winemaker for V. Doller.
1887	Gustav Heineman	Grape grower, wine maker, real estate dealer.
1887	George F. Schmidt	Park Hotel operator.
1887	Frederick Frick	Grape grower.
1888	Leslie Bruce	Schoolteacher.
1888	David Rosenfeld	Pack peddler.
1889	Sahnke Johanssen	Schoolteacher, store keeper, politician.
1889	J. P. Stranahan	U. S. Fish Hatchery superintendent.
1889	Chas. C. Williamson	Summer resident.
1890	Alice Bowen	Nurses home promoter, cottage builder.
1890	Wm. F. Lockwood	Summer resident, trustee of De Rivera estate
1890	Herman Ledyard Morgan	Summer resident.
1890	J. Calvin Oldt	Schoolteacher.
1890	O. T. Sears	M.D.
1890	J. B. Ward	Hotel operator.
1890	Stephen Weisler	Grape grower and wine maker.
1890	John Werner	Painter.
1890	Charles B. Wright	Painter.
1891	Wm. Breither	Stone mason.
1892	Hugo Heim	Carpenter and cabinet maker.
1892	Frederick Arndt	Painter.
1892	Thomas Alexander	Actor, paper hanger.
1893	Adam Hartlaub	Grape grower.
1893	R. J. Thompson, Rev.	Summer resident.

1894	Seth Downing	U. S. Fish Hatchery superintendent.
1895	Wm. Kiinzler	Blacksmith.
1895	Chris Nielsen	Grape grower.
1895	Julius Wurtz	Hotel operator.
1896	Tom Conlen	Rooming house operator.
1896	John Hess	Laborer for Gascoyne.
1896	Wm. Schnoor	Clerk, storekeeper.
1896	A. A. Hessel	M.D.
1896	Charles A. Bullock	U. S. Fish Hatchery laborer.
1898	Stephen Traverso	Overseer for Daussa.
1898	James Duff	Grape grower.
1899	Lewis Deisler	Bath house operator.
1900	Eugene McFall	Steamboater, summer desident.
1900	John Rehberg	Arbor Inn builder.
1900	Chris Seibert	Street car operator.
1900	John Wonnecott	Gardener at Hotel Victory.
1900	Alfred Brown	Laborer for George Gascoyne.
1900	Harry Clark	Summer resident.
1902	Fred Lohman	Caretaker of Gibraltar.
1903	T. W. McCreary	Mgr. Hotel Victory.
1904	Parker B. Robinson	M.D.
1906	Ross Lewis	Permanent summer resident and actor.
1906	John Labadie	Summer resident.
1907	John Newman	Ferry boatman.
1907	E. G. Clapsidele	Rooming house operator.
1907	John A. Feick	Builder—summer resident.
1907	Gus Fettel	Builder with Feick.
1908	Eugene Garrigan	Fisherman, ice laborer.
1910	Wm. Henry Brown	Cook on "Arrow".
1910	Orange Bird	U. S. Fish Hatchery laborer.
1910	E. J. Meyer	Ashland concessionaire.
1910	Wm. H. Reinhart	Hotel operator, wine merchant.
1910	Otto Sasse	Toledo M.D., summer resident.
1910	George Senne	Ohio State fish hatchery laborer
1910	Benjamin Smith	Horse buyer from V. Doller, hotel operator
1910	Jack Snyder	Actor, summer resident, builder.
1910	Harry Bannister	Barber, actor.
1913	Elmondorf Dubois	Blacksmith for Kiinzler, fisherman, grape grower, store clerk.
1913	Henry Keimer	Carpenter on Perry Monument.
1913	Karl Oelschlager	Construction engineer on Perry Monument, summer resident.
1913	Tom Smith	Laborer on Perry Monument construction.
1913	Harry Crossley	Ohio Fish Hatchery superintendent.
1913	J. E. Forbes	Rector St. Paul's.
1913	Clyde Earhardt	Preacher and caretaker.
1914	Herman Schauble	Laborer for Riedling.
1915	Henry Lescheid	Fisherman and grape grower.
1915	Wm. Earl Marks	Fireman at power plant.
1915	Antone Proch	Farmer.
1915	Emil G. Schmidt	Summer resident.
1916	Charles Micheler	Fisherman.

1917	Wm. Gordon	U. S. Light House keeper.
1917	Cletus Marsh	H. S. student with relative here. Boatman.
1917	Raymond C. Osburn	Stone Laboratory director, summer resident.
1918	Wm. Market, Sr.	Fisherman.
1918	Theodore Greist	M.D.
1919	Wm. J. Mulligan	Popcorn stand operator, summer resident.
1919	John M. Hanson	Telephone Exchange Mgr.
1920	James Clayton	Souvenir stand operator.
1920	Dr. Roy Evans	M.D.
1920	Charles Mahler	Gill net fisherman—-independent.
1920	Carl Nixon	Actor, summer resident.
1920	Martin Maier	Fireman on ferry Chippewa
1920	Cy Seminuz	Laborer for Tom Alexander.
1920	George Stoiber	Rental cottage operator.
1920	David Davies	U. S. Fish Hatchery superintendent.
1920	Arthur Deacon	Stone mason.
1921	Mrs. E. A. Sutton	Practical nurse.
1921	Otis Zeigler	Boatman.
1921	Dom. A. Cassetta	Rector St. Paul's.
1922	Fred Cooper	Taxi driver, grape grower, wine maker.
1923	John Nissen	Fisherman—-independent.
1924	Sophie Kibbe	Laundress.
1924	Jim Poulos	Restaurant and tourist cabin operator.
1925	Chas. Duggan	U. S. Light House keeper.
1925	Henry Reinhard	Laborer.
1925	Carl Stoecker	Laborer for Tom Alexander, butcher.
1925	Gordon Barker	Boatman, farmer.
1928	George Luteritz	Laborer for Gascoyne.
1928	Henry L. Tancock	Laborer for G. Dodge.
1929	Harry F. Schillumeit	Laborer for Gascoyne.
1930	Milton Hersberger	Aviator, mail contractor.
1930	Fred Wilhelm	Laborer for Tom Duff—grapes.
1930	Max Woischke	Grape grower, farmer.
1931	Franklin Ohlemacher	Seaman on ferry "Erie Isle".
1931	Jim Rudy	Seaman on ferry "Erie Isle".
1931	Roy Thompson	Fisherman for United Fisheries Co. Boatman-caretaker.
1932	Ralph Kiefer	Seaman on "Erie Isle" and later aviation mechanic for Hersberger.
1933	Joseph Zura	Fisherman for Lay Brothers
1935	Harold Kiplinger	Schoolteacher.
1936	T. H. Langlois	Stone Laboratory director.
1936	Wm. Lindner	Labor foreman at winery.
1936	Robt. Suttle	M.D.
1936	Chas. Moes	Butcher for Schnoor & Fuchs.
1937	Ralph Morgan	Fisherman for Lay Brothers.
1937	David C. Chandler	Stone Laboratory biologist.
1938	Charles F. Walker	Stone Laboratory biologist.
1938	Kenneth H. Doan	Stone Laboratory student.
1938	James O. Edmister	Stone Laboratory student.
1939	Milton B. Trautman	Stone Laboratory biologist.
1940	George Jerome Edam	M.D.

1940	Wm. Lattendorf	Carpenter.
1940	Lawrence Jenkins	Choir boys leader.
1940	Chas. Linker	Concessionaire.
1940	Ken Reynolds	Concessionaire.
1940	Bruno Webber	Wood carver.
1940	Frank Haley	Priest.
1940	Dr. Dutton	Physician.
1941	Frank Larose	U. S. Lighthouse keeper, dockmaster.
1941	Robert Jones	U. S. Light House keeper.
1943	Owen B. Weeks	Stone Laboratory student.
1944	Julius Roth	Electrician.
1944	Mrs. India Boelcher	Cook and hotel keeper.
1944	William Ream	Trucker.
1945	T. W. Roseboom	Painter.
1945	Harry Dever Corder	Aviator for Hersberger.

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